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RUSSELL ERRETT, Editor.

M. F. ROAN, Business Manager.

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The Weekly Commercial, a large sheet, containing all the Current News, Miscellaneous, Literary and Scientific Intelligence, and Valuable Reading for the small—

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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. XI. PITTSBURGH, THURSDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 11, 1873. NO. 77.

The Daily and Weekly Commercial—NEWS PAPER DECISIONS.—1. Any one who takes a paper regularly from the Postoffice—whether directed to his name or another's, or whether he has subscribed or not—is responsible for the payment.

2. If a person orders his paper discontinued, he must pay all arrearages, or the publisher may continue to send it until payment is made, and collect the whole amount whether the paper is taken from the office or not.

3. The courts have decided that refusing to take Newspapers or Periodicals from the Postoffice, or removing and leaving them uncalled for, is prima facie evidence of intentional fraud.

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FIRST EDITION

EUROPE

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

England.

LONDON FOG CONTINUES—ACCIDENTS AND DEATH

LONDON, December 10.—London is again enveloped in dense fog. There were numerous accidents yesterday in the streets and on the Thames, and the hospitals are filled. On the river three persons were killed.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT—THIRTY LIVES LOST.

LONDON, December 10.—A dispatch from Birmingham says a serious collision occurred on the railway near that city this morning. Thirty persons are reported killed and injured. A heavy fog prevailed at the time of the disaster.

BUT NO LIVES LOST.

LONDON, December. 10—The report that a large number of persons were killed by a railroad accident near Birmingham to-day, was incorrect. No lives were lost.

POSTPONEMENT DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S MARRIAGE.

LONDON, December, 10.—It is now said that the marriage of the Duke of Edinburgh with the daughter of the Czar has been postponed until Febuary.

BARON REUTER BREAKS HIS PERSIAN CONTRACT.

LONDON, December 10.—A special dispatch says, as Baron Reuter has not begun internal improvements in Persia within the time fixed, the "Shah" has declared the Convention void.

France.

BAZAINE TRIAL—DEFENSE CLOSED.

VERSAILLES, December 10.—Lachaud, counsel for Bazaine, finished his address this morning. He declared that the Marshal did not surrender in the open field, and was guiltless of violation of article 210 of the army code.

END OF THE TRIAL—BAZAINE CONDEMNED TO DEATH AND RECOMMENDED TO MERCY.

VERSAILLES, December 10.—M. Lachaud, counsel for Marshal Bazaine, in his peroration said: "I deeply sympathize with this valiant soldier, overwhelmed by a terrible accusation. I fear not death for him—he is brave and fears nothing—but the loss of his honor, for the sake of his wife and children. I feel most for France, which will deplore the loss of a valorous soldier. Your Honors, patriotism forbids that you condemn him. You know what political trials are, on the spot on which posterity has raised a statue to those executed after such trials."

M. Poureet replied, demanding that a terrible example be made as a lesson to the rising generation. Before the judges withdrew Bazaine said: "I have two words in my breast—Honor and Country. I have never been wanting towards his proud motto during my forty-two years of service. I swear before God that I have not betrayed France." After a long deliberation, the judges declared Bazaine guilty of the charges of the capitulation of Metz, and of the action in the open field without doing all that was prescribed by honor and duty to avoid a surrender, and unanimously condemned him to death, and to be degraded from his rank previous to his execution. After judgment had been rendered, all the members of the court signed an appeal for mercy, which Duke D'Aumale immediately conveyed in person to President MacMahon. Bazaine was greatly agitated when he heard the decision of the court.

PARIS, December 10.—The crowd at Triavon, to-day, warmly cheered when the verdict was rendered. The sentence includes the payment of costs and expulsion from the Legion of Honor.

Germany.

GOVERNMENT'S COURSE TOWARDS CATHOLICS SUSTAINED.

BERLIN, December 10.—The Landtag to-day rejected by 193 majority, the motion censuring the legislation introduced by the government directed against the Ultramontane Catholics.

Austria.

LOAN TO MITIGATE THE CRISIS.

VIENNA, December 10.—The bill authorizing the raising of a loan for the mitigation of the financial crisis passed the Reichstag.

Marine News.

LIVERPOOL, December 10.—Steamships Pembroke and Pennsylvania, from New York, and Samaria, from Boston, arrived out.

BREST, December 10.—Steamer St. Laurient, from New York, arrived.

European Markets.

LONDON, December 10.—Amount of bullion gone to Bank of England to-day, £180,000. Consols for money 91¾@92⅛; 5-20s of '65, 93⅝; do '67, 98; 10-40s, 91⅝; new 5s, 92; New York Central 93; Erie 36⅞; Erie preferred 68¾. Turpentine 31s3⅛d.

PARIS, December 10.—Rentes 58 francs 97 centimes.

LIVERPOOL, December 10.—Cotton dull and easier at 8⅝@8¾d; sales 12,000 bales; American 7,000 bales; speculation and export 2,000 bales. Breadstuffs firm. Red winter wheat 12s8½d. Flour 28s2½. Corn 36s. Cumberland middles 40s 6d; short rib middles 39s. Cheese 61s 6d. Refined petroleum 13s1½d.

ANTWERP, December 10.—Refined petroleum 32½ francs.

NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, December 10, 1873.

SENTENCE OF IRVING.

John T. Irving, the self-accused Nathan murderer, has been sentenced to seven years and six months in Sing Sing, on a charge of burglary.

CHEAP TRANSPORTATION.

A report was presented to the Cheap Transportation Association yesterday, setting forth many impositions upon the producer and consumer which are practiced by railway managers, and pointing out methods by which they can be remedied, by the establishment of a national freight line from East to West, which shall reduce rates sufficiently to offer compensation for the expense of maintaining and running it only on enlarged canals, on which steam shall be used as a motive power, are among the expedients mentioned.

INSURANCE COMPANY IN TROUBLE.

The Commonwealth Life Insurance Company has decided to stop issuing policies. Policy holders are informed that the company has not sufficient assets to protect its present policyholders, and has made arrangements to transfer its business so far as practicable.

SUSPENSION OF BROKERS.

H. P. Herrick & Co., bankers and brokers on Exchange court, have suspended.

DIRECTORS OF THE ATLANTIC AND GREAT WESTERN.

At the annual election by the stockholders of the Atlantic and Great Western Railroad Company, the following named directors were elected for the ensuing year: Lloyd Aspinwall, James H. Fay, Lawrence Wells, W. H. Upson, John Tod, T. Ross, Henry E. Parsons, W. W. McFarland, James R. Hodgkins, A. Hegewisch, Adam S. Hewitt, J. H. Devereaux and Reuben Hitchcock.

FIRE RECORD.

Flour Mills Burned at Springfield, Ohio.

CINCINNATI, December 10.—A fire in Springfield, Ohio, last night, destroyed the depot flour mills, with grain sheds, &c. Loss not ascertained. Insurance on building, material and stock, $15,000.

CINCINNATI, December 10.—The loss on the fire at Springfield, Ohio, is $45,000; insured for $2,500, each, in the Franklin, of Wheeling. Firemen's and Ohio, of Dayton.

Two New Wells Near Parker's.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

PARKER'S, December 10, 1873.

A well was struck on the McClemond farm yesterday afternoon. It is now doing from 1,200 to 1,500. Another well was also struck on the Wilson farm, which is doing 600. Both wells are in the fourth sand rock.

NEWS SUMMARY.

BY TELEGRAPH.

The New Hampshire State Temperance Committee yesterday adopted strong prohibitory resolutions and nominated Dr. John Blackmar for Governor and David Heald for Railroad Commissioner.

Great excitement existed in New Castle, Delaware, Tuesday night, caused by reports that 1,300 men were on their way from Philadelphia to rescue the convicted bank burglars. The citizens turned out well armed, also a detachment of police.

Several large Philadelphia manufacturing establishments which have been closed the past six or eight weeks, have resumed, running from three days in the week to full time, most of them with a full complement of hands, but at a reduction of wages from ten to fifteen per cent. Twenty mills in Manyunk started the past week, and it is stated that the remainder will be running by January 1.

The Cincinnati Acclimatization Society yesterday received three thousand dollars worth of birds from Germany, comprising many varieties never before brought to this country. They will be wintered in Burnet woods and turned at large next spring.

Navigation will be resumed on the eastern division of the Erie canal to-day.

The following steamers have arrived at New York: Thuringia, from Hamburg; and Greece, from Liverpool.

A *Herald* special from Gibraltar announces that the United States steamer Shenandoah sailed for Key West on the 9th inst.

The Board of Directors of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad yesterday unanimously re-elected John W. Garrett, President for the ensuing year, this being his sixteenth term. In the absence of Mr. Garrett in Europe, John King, Jr., was unanimously elected President *pro tem.*

XLIII CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 10, 1873.

Mr. FENTON presented a petition of the Society of Friends and others in New York, asking for the appointment of a committee to regulate the traffic in alcoholic liquors.

Mr. SCOTT said he had a similar petition and moved it be referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. EDMUNDS hoped the Committee would report. Congress had nothing to do with this subject, except in the District of Columbia and the Territories. He would be glad to see such legislation, but felt convinced that Congress had no power except as stated.

Messrs. FRELINGHUYSEN, Sumner, Thurman, Conkling, Sherman, Morrill of Maine, and others, presented similar petitions to that of Fenton, and on vote all were referred to the Finance Committee.

Mr. LOGAN presented a petition from the business men of Chicago asking the establishment of a branch mint in that city. Referred to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. SHERMAN, from the Committee on Finance, reported favorably the bill to authorize the organization of National banks without circulation. Placed on the calendar.

Mr. FERRY, of Michigan, introduced a bill authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to issue forty-four millions of a reserve fund, and make it part of the permanent circulation. The bill is designed for the immediate relief of the present stringency, and to restore confidence and business activity to the country. Referred to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. SHERMAN, from the Finance Committee, reported a resolution declaring that it is the duty of Congress at its present session to adopt measures to strengthen the public credit, and directing the said committee to report a bill providing for the issue of our currency at all times redeemable in gold or its equivalent.

Mr. PHILLIPS asked leave to offer a resolution recognizing Cuban independence. Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr. WOOD, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, reported an elaborate resolution directing the Secretary of the Treasury to report in detail the cost of refunding the public debt thus far into five per cent. bonds.

Mr. MAYNARD introduced a bill to authorize the organization of National banks without circulation. Referred to the Committee on Banking and Commerce.

Mr. BAYARD presented the views of the minority of the committee directing the Finance Committee to report measures for the return to specie payment. The resolution was made the special order for Monday next.

Mr. HAMILTON, of Maryland, submitted an amendment to the Constitution, declaring that the United States should make nothing but gold and silver coin legal tender for payment of public and private debts.

Mr. DAVIS, of West Virginia, introduced a bill for the free transmission of newspapers through the mails. Referred.

The House bill amendatory of the act to provide for the better security of life on vessels propelled by steam, was taken up.

Mr. SCOTT, in reply to a question, said the act was only to apply to towboats, so as to allow them to carry 150 pounds of steam to the square inch. It did not effect passenger vessels. The bill was passed.

The House bill granting general amnesty was read. Mr. Sumner objected to the second reading of the bill to-day, not because he was opposed to general amnesty, but before it became a law he desired to secure justice to his colored fellow citizens.

Mr. GORDON submitted a resolution directing the Secretary of the Treasury to communicate to the Senate all particulars relative to cotton seized under orders of the department since the close of the war. Laid over.

Mr. SUMNER offered a resolution, which was agreed to, directing the Committee on Postoffices and Post Roads to consider the expediency of providing a further convenience in correspondence, known as the "letter writer" with one cent stamp, being a new article of stationery adapted for a letter circular and newspaper wrapper.

Mr. MORTON introduced a bill providing that any national banking association deciding to reduce its capital stock, as provided in section 13 of the National Currency Act, shall be entitled to take up a pro rata portion of its bonds upon depositing lawful money of the United States, or returning its own circulating notes in the proportion required by law. Referred.

Mr. DAVIS' bill, providing for the free transmission by mail of newspapers and periodicals, authorizes newspaper exchange to be made free of postage, as formerly, and also the free transmission of weekly papers to subscribers within the county where published.

At 1:15 the Senate went into Executive session.

At 2 o'clock the doors were reopened and the Senate adjourned until to-morrow.

The SPEAKER announced the following committees:

On Mississippi Levees—Morey, Hurlbut, Standard, Pierce, Lewis, Randall, and Lamar.

On Centennial Celebration and the Proposed National Census of 1875—Kelley, Hawley, of Connecticut; G. F. Hoar, Shanks, Woodford, Butler, of Tennessee; Smith, of Ohio; Hartzell, Clayton, Wells, Young; Harris and Standford.

Adjourned.

THE VIRGINIUS.

Preparations for Her Delivery, and That of the Survivors Complete---Our Fleet at Key West--Every Emergency Provided for.

WASHINGTON, December 10.—The Navy Department has completed all necessary arrangements providing for the reception from the Spanish forces, in the harbor of Havana, of the steamer Virginius, and for the transfer of the survivors at Santiago de Cuba from prison to one of the United States vessel of war, in accordance with the terms of the diplomatic agreement. The Canandaigua, carrying ten guns, and commanded by Captain Lowry, will sail from New York for Havana to-morrow, to receive the Virginius, and Capt. Braine will receive the persons at Santiago, on the Juniata. Rear Admiral Scott, at Key West, will have the strongest naval force under his command that has been collected by the Government at any American port since the termination of the war. The monitors Saugus and Mahopac are there already, with the Kingsper and Worcester, the latter being the Admiral's flag ship. The Colorado sails to-night from New York. She is a screw steamer, with 16 guns. The Florida, carrying 16 guns, is expected to follow her to-morrow. The Franklin and Brooklyn, the former carrying 39, and the latter 24 guns, sailed in 1870 by a small excess. The amount for 1872 is about eighty-eight million bushels. Many have supposed that Russia is the heaviest contributor to these supplies, but official figures show when subjected to analysis, that the United States furnishes the largest proportion, the total for fifteen years being 143,817,686 cwt., or 27 per cent. of all, while the proportion for Russia is 24 per cent., or 120,726,477 cwt. Germany (exclusively of the duchies up to 1860) contributes 17 per cent., (93,437,841 cwt.,) and France 9 per cent., (51,342,638 cwt.) British America has sent 5 per cent. These prominent contributions (with fractions of percentage omitted) make 84 per cent., leaving but 16 to all other sources of supply.

The absurdity of the theory that there is a surplus of wheat produced is strongly shown in the fact that only the United States and Russia are reliable in a series of years for any surplus whatever, that their excess is nearly all required to make up the deficiency of a single country, and that there never is any other outlet for such excess. Estimates have been rife, in commercial quarters, of a requirement of two hundred millions of bushels by nations having deficient wheat crops. It is utterly impossible to find such a demand, if necessary, or indeed much more than half of it. If official and other accounts are true, the aggregate wheat exports of each nation of the continent of Europe, minus its imports, will scarcely exceed the exports of this country, though there will be exports from Russia, although her accustomed home supply may be short, and replaced in part by coarser grains.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 10, 1873.

INDICTMENT OF SENATOR POMEROY'S ASSAILANT.

Martin F. Conway has been indicted for assault with intent to kill ex-Senator Pomeroy on October 16.

APPROPRIATION OF FOUR MILLIONS FOR THE NAVY AGREED UPON.

The House Committee on Appropriations, this morning, agreed to recommend that four millions be appropriated for the immediate requirements of the navy.

COLORED MEN CALL ON THE PRESIDENT—HIS OPINION ON CIVIL RIGHTS.

The Louisiana delegation to the National Civil Rights Convention, accompanied by Senator West, called to-day on the President, who, in response to an address thanking him for the care and attention he had given to the colored people of Louisiana, said he would always endeavor to secure for the colored man all rights which should accompany his enfranchisement. Certain rights were still withheld, but he hoped that ere long they would find themselves in possession of all legal privileges which belong to freemen. He did not know what Congress would do in the matter, but he thought it likely that that body would, at its present session, pass some civil rights bill, and that if such a bill is defeated it will probably be because some extreme proviso will be moved by some person claiming to be the particular friend of the colored man. After a hand shaking the delegation took their leave.

NOMINATIONS BY THE PRESIDENT.

The President sent to the Senate the following nominations: A. J. Smith, Surveyor General for Montana Territory; Jacob Rech, Pension Agent at Dubuque, Iowa; Wm. M. Stafford, Receiver of Public Moneys at Elko, Nev.; James H. Hose, United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, vice Miller, retired. Postmasters—A. S. McDaniel, Hannibal, Mo.; Samuel C. Fuller, Traverse City, Mich.; Lyman S. Gilkey, Stockport, Ind.; John R. Hoaline, Rockville, Ill.; Cyrus T. Proutly, Carlinsville, Ill.; Wm. R. Hays, Parsons, Ks.

CONFIRMATIONS BY THE SENATE.

The Senate to-day confirmed the following nominations: Marshall Jewell, Minister to Russia; James Meredith Read, Jr., Minister Resident to Greece; John M. Wilson, of Ohio, Consul at Bremen; Alfred A. Freeman, of Pennsylvania, Consul at Prague; Levi T. Hull, Collector of Second District of Michigan. Surveyors—General Silas Reed, Wyoming Territory; Nathan Kimball, Surveyor General of Utah; Dana E. King, of Minnesota; Wm. McMicken, of Washington Territory; Silas Garter, Register at Lincoln, Neb. Postmasters—J. Glass McPheeters, Bloomington, Ind.; Peter Platter, Seymour, Ind.; James M. Watts, Delphi, Ind.; Geo. H. Dunn, Greenburg, Ind.; Robt. L. West, Wachita, Ks.; Wm. Tracey, Flint, Mich.; Wm. M. Kenyon, Howell, Mich.; E. J. Suthworth, Hudson, Mich.; George W. Matthews, Pawpaw, Mich.; Dani. C. Hill, Urbana, Ohio; Mrs. Lavania Adair, Portsmouth, Ohio; M. J. Wright, Vallejo, Cal.; M. L. Dewatt, Lexington, Mass.; Thos. Moore, Metropolis City, Illinois; D. C. Negley, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Henry L. Boies, Syracuse, Ill.; Mrs. Clara L. Nichols, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.; Mrs. Rachel Tritt, Farmer City, Ill.; Lucius Whitney, Morris, Ill.; Christian Y. Long, Carthage, Ill.; Emory Gregg, Fairburg, Ill.; R. P. McKnight, Verdin, Ill.; Cadet Taylor, Winona, Ill.; Jno. R. Cameron, Ottawa, Ill.; Eliza Jane Graves, Ouaca, Ill.; Wm. H. Mann, Giman, Ill.; Jas. S. Barnes, Mason City, Ill.; H. McKinney, Aricola, Ill.; William E. Smith, Woodstock, Ill.; James Y. Carey, Waukegan, Ill.; L. A. Hamlin, Owassi, Mich.; John Mahin, Muscatine, Iowa; Daniel Fitchthorn, Waverly, Iowa; John A. Bells, Vinton, Iowa; N. M. Page, Fort Dodge, Iowa; Mrs. S. S. Ferral, Covington, Kentucky; Ed. B. Heald, Harrodsburg, Ky.; Mrs. Lucy M. Porter, Louisville, Ky. Gideon Leisenring, Charlestown, W. Va.; M. H. Brooks, Huntington, W. Va.; John Littell, Piedmont, W. Va.; Herman G. Lafoole, Cheyenne, Wyoming.

NATIONAL COLORED CONVENTION.

The National Colored Convention organized to-day by the election of ex-Governor Pinchback as president. Col. Robert Harlan was appointed chairman of the committee to wait on President Grant and ascertain what time would be convenient for him to receive the convention in a body.

MR. BINGHAM LIKELY TO BE CONFIRMED.

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, to-day reported favorably on the nomination of John A. Bingham to be Minister to Japan, but no action having been made, no action was taken on the report. The opinion of a prominent member of the committee is that Mr. Bingham will be confirmed.

OHIO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Meeting at Mansfield—Fine Exhibition of Fruit and Vegetables.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

MANSFIELD, O., December 10, 1873.

The seventh annual meeting of the Ohio State Horticultural Society commenced its session in this city to-day. About seventy-five members were present from all parts of the State. Dr. J. A. Warder, of Cincinnati, presides over the meeting. The exhibition of fruit and vegetables is quite large and very fine. Samuel Robinson, of Richland county, and Thomas Bushnell, of Ashland county, make the best displays.

CRIMES.

A New Guest for the Penitentiary.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

LOCK HAVEN, Pa., December 10, 1873.

Court is in session, Judge Mayer presiding. Caleb Howell, for attempting to shoot his brother last summer, to-day plead guilty and was sentenced to the Western Penitentiary for three years and six months.

CASUALTIES.

Coal Miner Injured.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

BRIDGEPORT, OHIO, December 10, 1873.

Henry Brazier, son of Alex. Brazier, had his head severely crushed, about noon to-day, while at work in a coal bank, by the fall of a heavy stone. His recovery is doubtful.

Indorsement of Indian Commissioner Smith.

CHICAGO, December 10.—Rev. E. T. Williams, of this city, and General C. H. Howard, publisher of the *Advance*, and late Secretary of the American Missionary Association, who have been charged by Wm. Welch, of Philadelphia, principal witness against Indian Commissioner E. P. Smith, with collusion with that officer in the alleged fraudulent contracts in Indian pine lands in Wisconsin, sent to-day the following dispatch to Secretary of the Interior Delano, and also to Hon. N. P. Turrey, Chairman of the Investigation Committee, now in session at St. Paul: "The charge of Wm. Welch, of Philadelphia, against Commissioner Smith, that he had concerted with the United States in procuring fraudulent transactions in Indian pine lands, is a groundless falsehood, and so palpably such that even the suspicion of it is without excuse."

Death of Na han'el Gear, of Zaaesville.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

ZANESVILLE, O., December 10, 1873.

Nathaniel Gear, the inventor of the Gear Irregular Cutting Machine, died very suddenly at his residence in this city this afternoon.

SECOND EDITION.

WASHINGTON.

The Louisiana Senatorial Contest Postponed.

GOVERNOR SHEPHARD'S CONFIRMATION.

Chances for Judge Williams.

PROPOSED INCREASE OF PENSIONS.

Committee on Transportation Routes

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE TALKED OF.

Colored Delegations Call on the President

AND HEAR A CIVIL RIGHTS SPEECH,

Interesting Wheat Statistics.

NOMINATIONS AND CONFIRMATIONS.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 10, 1873.

The Committee on Privileges and Elections in the contested case of Pinchback and McMillan, have postponed further consideration till Friday.

Governorship of the District.

A motion to reconsider the election of Mr. Shephard as Governor of the District of Columbia, has been entered in Executive session. It appears that the confirmation was carried through during a slim attendance. There will now be some discussion on the subject of the magnificent improvements effected through the energy of Mr. Shephard. It seems a number of persons whose services were dispensed with in the late reduction of employees of the district, are showing their appreciation of past favors by setting up a howl of pious indignation over alleged frauds. The parties, ten days ago, were the loudest in their praise of the operations of the Board of Public Works.

The Financial Question

will come up for consideration on Monday. There will be at least a week's debate, but no definite action will be taken.

Williams' Case.

The Democratic Senators, who number about eighteen, state that they will vote in a body against the confirmation of Attorney General Williams for Chief Justice. A great deal depends on the report of the committee, which met to-day, but took no action. Should the report be unfavorable, the Senate will support it by a large majority. But if not, it will be a close matter either way.

Increase of Pensions.

The Committee on Invalid Pensions to-day agreed to report a bill increasing the pay of soldiers who had lost both arms or their eyesight in the war from thirty instead of thirty-two and one-half dollars a month. A bill was also agreed to restoring the pensioners of 1812, excluded by the late rebellion, to the rolls.

Agricultural Department.

The House Committee on Agriculture will report to-morrow, favorably, a bill authorizing the transmission by mail of the reports and seeds of the Agricultural Department.

Transportation Routes.

The Select Committee on Transportation Routes to the Seaboard will meet to-morrow to consider some general matters connected with their labors during the past summer, and will ask the Senate to permit them to visit New Orleans during the holidays, to obtain further information in that direction. Mr. Windom is now engaged in preparing his report, but the importance of the trade of the Mississippi makes it desirable to add further information for the more efficient administration of our commercial laws, and to bring our internal trade under the fostering care of the Government.

New Department Proposed.

The Committee have under consideration the question of creating a Department of Commerce, to have charge of our internal and external commerce. It is proposed then to confine the Treasury to finances alone, and to assign the customs, life-saving stations, light houses, marine hospitals, revenue marine, steamboat inspection, coast survey and the consuls in commercial affairs, to the proposed department. There are numerous inefficiencies in our commercial affairs, due to the absence of proper department control.

Department of Agriculture.

The monthly report of the Department of Agriculture, contains the following valuable information respecting the demand for wheat:

We have repeatedly shown it to be the policy of nations to supply their own people with wheat and other bread equivalents, and that few fail to do so, and fewer still undertake as a permanent policy the production of cereals for exportation. Among these Russia and the United States are the most prominent, and France and Germany always export something, and often partially balance exports by the enhanced imports. Great Britain is the only regular and extensive purchaser. That the reader may study the wants of Great Britain, and means of supply, the following table is given, compiled from the official records of British imports:

There was a total of 528,141,861 cwt. of wheat, (or its equivalent in flour,) imported into Great Britain for the past fifteen years. This is a yearly average of 35,209,487 cwt., or 65,724,319 bushels of sixty pounds each. The requirements of the past five years have exceeded this average, and in 1870 by a small excess. The amount for 1872 is about eighty-eight million bushels. Many have supposed that Russia is the heaviest contributor to these supplies, but official figures show when subjected to analysis, that the United States furnishes the largest proportion, the total for fifteen years being 143,817,686 cwt., or 27 per cent. of all, while the proportion for Russia is 24 per cent., or 120,726,477 cwt. Germany (exclusively of the duchies up to 1860) contributes 17 per cent., (93,437,841 cwt.,) and France 9 per cent., (51,342,638 cwt.) British America has sent 5 per cent. These prominent contributions (with fractions of percentage omitted) make 84 per cent., leaving but 16 to all other sources of supply.

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THE ST. LOUIS MURDER.

Later Developments in the Case—The Victim's Relations with the Murderer's Family.

ST. LOUIS, December 10.—Further developments regarding the murder of Richard Bottcher by young Cronenbald, are to the effect that Bottcher had seduced Miss Cronenbald and that their marriage was favored by Mrs. Cronenbald on this account, and that the son murdered Bottcher to avenge the wrong done to his sister. Bottcher was a Prussian, thirty-five years old, and had been employed as a coachman by Mrs. Cronenbald, and a man of all work about the house, and is alleged to have won the affections of Miss Cronenbald and effected her ruin last summer during the absence of young Cronenbald in Europe. Miss Cronenbald is only sixteen and her brother twenty-two years old.

THE WEATHER.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER,
WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 11th, 1, A. M.

PROBABILITIES.

For New England, clear weather and low temperature, with light northerly to westerly winds, will prevail during the greater portion of the day. For the Middle Atlantic States, northerly to westerly winds, with low temperature and clear weather until Thursday evening; during Thursday night, increasing cloudiness, winds shifting to easterly and southerly, and probably threatening weather. For the South Atlantic States, slightly rising temperature and generally clear weather during the day. For the Gulf States and Tennessee, partly cloudy weather, with rising temperature and possibly light rain in the lower Mississippi Valley. For the Ohio Valley, and thence northward over the Lake region, rising temperature and light rain, succeeded by southwinds with continual cloudy weather and rain. For the northwest, rising temperature, with cloudy weather and rain, except in the northern portion, where snow will prevail during a portion of the day, followed by less cloudiness and clearing weather.

Midnight Bulletin.

DECEMBER 10, 1873—10:45 P. M.

PLACE OF OBSERVATION.	Ther.	Wind.	Weather.
Cairo, Ill	50	Calm	Foggy.
Cincinnati, O	45	E	Cloudy.
Davenport, Iowa	26	S	Light rain.
Keokuk, Iowa	43	S	Light rain.
Leavenworth, Kan	41	S	Light rain.
Louisville, Ky	48	E	Light rain.
Memphis, Tenn	57	Calm	Foggy.
Nashville, Tenn	55	Calm	Fair.
New Orleans, La	66	S E	Clear.
Omaha, Neb	25	S W	Fair.
Pittsburgh	38	E	Cloudy.
St. Louis, Mo	43	S E	Cloudy.
Vicksburg, Miss	71	S W	Calm.
Shreveport	65	S E	Clear.
Indianapolis	41	Calm	Light rain.
Ft. Gibson	59	S E	Cloudy.
LaCrosse	30	N E	Sleet.
St. Paul	29	S	Hail.
Yankton	22	W	Fair.

Meeting of the Nation Trust Company's Stockholders.

Another meeting of the stockholders of the Nation Trust Company was held at the Ralston school house last evening, Mr. John H. McKelvy in the chair.

Subscriptions were received from stockholders who were not present at former meetings. The total amount so far subscribed now foot up over $700,000 and, all of which sum is secured by first class bond and mortgage. All present subscribed the articles of agreement with the city, committees were appointed to look to recording the mortgages after it was found that they depended on unincumbered title deeds. The meeting was harmonious, and the interest evinced by all present showed a determination to pay all the legal indebtedness of the bank, without making any distinction in regard to creditors.

To-night the depositors of the bank, will hold an adjourned meeting, and it is stated a committee from the stockholders will be present, and make a statement.

"Place Your Money Where it Will do the Most Good."

If you are in the city and wish to remain over night, or to get a single meal, or to board permanently, you cannot leave your money any place where it will do yourself and others more good that the "Bethel and Young Men's Home,"

It will do you good because you will get more comforts and good living for the same amount than you can get elsewhere—for instance, you can get the best of supper for twenty-five cents, dinner for from thirty to forty cents, and lodging for from forty to fifty cents, all good enough for anybody. If you can board permanently and enjoy all the comforts of a good home, for from $5 to $7 50 per week. Then what profit the institution derives from keeping you, instead of being invested in houses and lands, is expended in feeding and lodging the destitute and homeless, and this is how you place your money to do the most good to others. The report of the Home for last month (November,) shows that 1,769 free meals have been given to 1,369 destitute persons, and 6,610 free lodgings have been furnished to the same.

A Call of the Fire Department.

Between nine and ten o'clock last evening, after the adjournment of the Board of Fire Commissioners, the members, without the knowledge of the engineers or other employees, proceeded to box 17, corner of Wood street and Sixth avenue, and struck an alarm. The arrival of the companies was timed by the President of the Commission Mr. Wilson, with the following result: From the time of the pulling of the box, the Harry Oliver hook and ladder truck was on the ground in 2.05 minutes; the Vigilant hose carriage in 1.48; the Eagle engine in 2.20; the Duquesne hose carriage in 2.30; the Eagle hook and ladder carriage in 2.15; the Eagle engine in 3.20; and the Niagara hose carriage in 5.03.

Voluntary Assignment.

Alexander Tindle, jr., having made a voluntary deed of assignment to Alexander Frew, for the benefit of his creditors, the Court of Common Pleas, yesterday, on petition, appointed Messrs. G. B. Phelps and John Davis appraisers to estimate the value of his estate.

FRED. GRANT passed through the city, yesterday, on his way east.

DEATH OF BILLY DIEHL.

The End of an Eccentric Character—His Dying Declarations—Suspicions of Murder.

For more than twenty years Billy Diehl has figured as one of the "characters" of Pittsburgh, especially in police circles; and perhaps no man, if we except the notorious Pat Murphy, was better known among "vags" and "disorderlies." Billy has gone to his last account, and the manner of his taking off is involved in mystery. It is generally known that he spent most of his time in jail, as a vagrant, or upon commitment for drunkenness or disorderly conduct. At times, when he was in the humor, and the weather favorable, he would mix with the other world, and seemed never at a loss to turn an honest penny when he wished to gratify his appetite for strong drink. He was well known to all the butchers attending the Allegheny cattle market, and being "handy" with a lot of cattle, sheep or hogs, and prompt and faithful in their delivery at the slaughter houses, made many a dollar in driving home the stock which the butchers had purchased. For sixty days preceding the first of December last, Billy had been in jail, and on Monday, the first instant, went out with the intention of visiting the cattle yards in Allegheny. Next morning he came back to the jail and complained to Warden Smith of feeling very ill. He did not then allege that anything unusal had befallen him, but he grew worse, and his symptoms became alarming. The jail physician examined him, and found that he had been passing blood through the urinary organs. It was deemed advisable that he be sent to the Homeopathic Hospital, where he could obtain more careful and constant nursing. Warden Smith then interrogated Billy as to whether he had been injured in any way, and he stated that he had been beaten and robbed by a German on Butcher's run, on the night that he was absent from the jail. The Warden, thinking there might be something in the story, and fearing that Billy might die, got him to make a statement, which is as follows:

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 4, 1873.

William Diehl says: I was pounded and beaten at Spring Garden (Butcher's Run), at a bone manufactory, by a person on the premises, but I do not know his name. It happened last Monday evening, at six or seven o'clock, I should think. There were two persons with him at the time, whom I do not know. He knocked me down by striking me on the neck with a club, then kicked and pounded me, and then robbed me of my money, and then threw me out of the house where I lay until next morning, about three or four o'clock, when the butcher wagons were passing. Some of the drivers saw me lying there, but I was unable to speak to them. The man that attacked me was a short, thick-set man, I should think about thirty or thirty-five years of age. He wore a kind of gray suit of clothes. I think the man lives there, and works in the bone manufactory. I was born in Philadelphia, and will be fifty-three years of age next April.

Diehl was taken to the hospital, where he died on Monday last, and was buried on Tuesday. The attendant physicians, thinking that his death resulted from the excessive use of alcoholic stimulants, did not deem an investigation necessary, and Coroner McCallin was not notified. Yesterday, however, when the fact of his death became known to Warden Smith, the Coroner was notified, and in company with the Warden and Detective McKelvey, went over to Butcher's run, but, upon making diligent inquiries, could obtain no information confirmatory of the statement of the deceased. Further efforts will be made with a view to ascertaining whether the man was beaten as alleged; and if so, and the perpetrators can be found, they will be held to an account. The only relative that the deceased leaves here so far as known is a brother, Freddy Diehl, who is also given to intemperance, and is at present in jail.

COURT PROCEEDINGS.

Common Pleas—Judge Collier.

In the contested will case of Matthew H. West, Jr., and others vs. J. H. Irwin and others, the jury found for the plaintiffs—in other words, they affirm the validity of the will of Matthew H. West, Sr.

Sarah Dawson vs. Theophilus Munden. This was an action against the (then) burgess of Millvale borough to recover the value of a lot of goods destroyed in 1872, during the prevalence of the smallpox. The plaintiff had nursed a smallpox patient, in Allegheny City, who died, and she afterwards took the goods which were in the house to Millvale borough. They were here seized and destroyed by authority of the burgess, as infected goods. The plaintiff denied the right of the defendant to destroy the goods at all, and further alleged that some of the articles could not have been infected at all. Verdict for the plaintiff, $100.

Edward O'Neill vs. the Ohio Township Trust Company. Action to recover $300 worth of notes deposited with the cashier, Frank Duff, for

The Daily Commercial.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1873.

THE New York *Graphic* proposes to make the idiot a subject of art illustration. O, MARBLE heart!

THE sinking of a heavily-laden scow by an accidental collision right in front of the dock of the Spanish frigate *Arapiles*, so that, although ready for sea, she can't get out, is said to make her officers and crew scowl. They also confound it with a coal scuttle.

THIS eager scrambling for a dead man's shoes before the kindly earth has covered his remains, is not seemly. The position of United States District Judge in Virginia, made vacant by the death of Judge UNDERWOOD, is already a subject of speculation and rivalry among the Virginia politicians.

THE Philadelphia *Age* prints in its editorial columns a purported conversation between two citizens relative to the new Constitution, the gist of which is that both of them were going to vote for it *because neither of them knew anything about it*. That's about the case with most of its supporters, we reckon.

"THE returns of the British Board of Trade for October show that the amount of iron exported to this country is less by fifty per cent. than during October, 1872."—*Chicago Tribune.*

But suppose the *Tribune's* pet fallacy, that of free trade, had prevailed during the last ten or twelve years? Is it likely the returns would have shown any such falling off, in that event?

AT THE annual meeting of the Union League of Philadelphia, held on Monday night last, attended by over five hundred of the most prominent men in Philadelphia, a resolution to indorse the new Constitution was almost unanimously voted down. It did not obtain over half a dozen votes. This is a clear indication of the public sentiment of that city. The men who think, there and elsewhere, are almost to a man against the abortion.

"THE 40,000 Democratic majority in Texas, secuting Governor, State officers, Legislature and United States Senator, is a permanent reconstruction of the State."—*Cincinnati Enquirer.*

Not at all. The reaction is but temporary. In the end the opponents of progress always outwit themselves; making reforms of every kind more sure and thorough, by making them more necessary. This is what the Texas Bourbons have done, and the *Enquirer* must be as blind as a bat not to see it.

TO-DAY the workingmen of New York are to hold two "grand demonstrations," a daylight procession and a mass meeting at Cooper Institute in the evening. Owing to the panic and Wall street stringency, the suspension of work in manufactories and the general stagnation in business, it is estimated that upwards of forty thousand persons are out of employment in that city. Numbers of these have families dependent on them for support, and many of them will undoubtedly suffer greatly unless work is furnished or help is extended to them.

WE JUDGE from the debate in the House on the Congressional Salary Bill, that our representative in that body intends to vote against a return to the old salary solely because of the motives of those who were instrumental in bringing the repealing bill before Congress. He will do well to remember, however, that he will be judged by his constituents, not upon the motives of others, but upon the merits of his own actions. They will do this with all the more severity when they take into account his boast that *he*, at least, has escaped from the follies of his youth.

THE New York *Bulletin* publishes a statement of the earnings of sixteen of the leading Western railways for the month of November. The total is $9,001,570, against $9,772,140 for the corresponding season last year, showing a decrease of $229,510. The same roads, for the eleven months ending 30th ult., returned their gross earnings at $98,921,707, against $87,972,035 for the corresponding period in 1872, showing an increase for 1873 of $10,949,672. Four roads showed an increase in November: The Missouri, Kansas and Texas, Milwaukee and St. Paul, Central Pacific and Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Minnesota. On the whole, this is not an unfavorable exhibit.

THE panic seems to have affected the publishing business more severely than almost any other branch of trade. The leading publishing houses in the country state that they are doing next to nothing, and when it is borne in mind that, in ordinary seasons, these employ millions of capital and a little army of men and women, the extent and character of the stagnation will be understood. The subscription book business also appears to have been badly hit. Hartford papers say that of the twelve thousand or more agents who started out, the majority are out of employment, and instead of the expected sale of two hundred and fifty thousand copies of the new Hartford books, the aggregate sales reach only sixty to seventy thousand copies.

QUITE a number of supercilious opposition papers are making merry over the suggestions contained in the President's Message, for the promotion of closer commercial relations between the United States and Brazil, more particularly with the great Valley of the Amazon. The matter, however, is worthy of very thoughtful consideration. Indeed, the subject is already attracting a large measure of attention from our Southern ports. The Brazilian trade, which is very important, is at present carried on by the merchants of New York, Boston and Baltimore, but the cities of the Mississippi Valley are uniting in an energetic movement to make New Orleans instead of the Eastern ports the seat of our trade with that country. It is singular to what lengths of puerile absurdity the desire to gratify political grudges will drive some people.

THE women of Missouri are gradually following in the footsteps of their sisters in other States, and are endeavoring to obtain grants similar to those allowed where the sex has obtained greater power. The point of attack is the hardened breasts of the next Democratic Legislature. Rather curiously, that body, without being asked to admit women to the ballot, is to be petitioned to allow them to hold office. But the offices in view are only connected with the public schools, and the Democratic statesmen need not tremble. In Illinois and several of the New England States women have served on the School Boards, and in numerous instances have made very efficient district superintendents. It is proposed to make them eligible to School Boards and to the office of County Superintendent in Missouri. The movement has already made considerable progress.

IT IS stated that the great English Conservative leader, DISRAELI, has expressed his intention to visit the United States next year, probably in the spring, making a general tour of the country. His romantic career, his literary successes, his oracular air, will be likely to make him an object of considerable interest, even to those who least believe in him. He professes a great regard for England's "trans-Atlantic cousins," but his affections didn't take a very active turn during our civil war. It was Mr. BARING—recently deceased—who kept him straight upon the question of the recognition of the independence of the Confederacy. It is true that he believed the Government would succeed in quelling the rebellion, and he allowed it to be known that such was his opinion, but he did nothing to restrain the hot impetuosity of his followers, who seemed determined to force on his country to a wicked intervention. He will be quite a change from BRADLAUGH.

FINANCIAL and business affairs are looking up bravely in Philadelphia. The bank statement of averages for the last week, as reported in the papers of that city, is in every respect a highly favorable one, and shows that these institutions have gained strength in all important items. For instance, there is an augmentation of deposits to the amount of $579,982. In the line of reserves there is an aggregate gain of $486,391, of which sum $347,036 is in lawful tenders and $139,355 in national notes. Liabilities to banks have been cut down $561,534, while the changes in the clearings being $9,282,851 in excess of the preceding week, and the balances heavier by $1,147,748. The proportion of gold and legal tenders to deposits and circulation in the aggregate is nearly thirty-five per cent., "a better showing," says the *Bulletin*, "than we ever remember to have seen before from the Philadelphia banks."

A CORRESPONDENT of the Philadelphia *Telegraph* points out how the provisions against bribery may be evaded in the Legislature under the new Constitution, without remedy. It is by electing lawyers to the Legislature. Then those who wish any particular legislation can retain them as their attorneys. As such, they can vote for bills, work for them, and speak for them, and if investigations follow, they can fall back on their oaths as attorneys. They have simply been acting for their clients. He says:

"The leading members in our State Legislature are to-day the paid attorneys of some corporation or other, when their only business as attorney is to attend to Harrisburg legislation.

"If you will examine the debates throughout the State on the new Constitution, you will find these men the most loud-mouthed on the merits of the new Constitution. And those best known at Harrisburg as the *most corrupt* prate the *most about its merits*. Why is this? Simply this: there is nothing in the new Constitution to prevent me from employing *either of our legal Senators* as my attorney, or the attorney of *my corporation*, from now to the end of their terms. I shall be entitled to their continual service, as corporation lawyers are usually employed by the year. It *they* sell themselves to me for a *fee*, they are merely acting as my attorney at law, and cannot be questioned. But suppose I choose to employ some gentleman not learned in the law, but equally well adapted for tricks that are vain; why, I am guilty of corruption, and the Constitution compels him to give evidence even against himself."

THE WATER COMMISSION BUSINESS.

We are by no means satisfied with the course that has been pursued in the matter between the Finance Committee and the Water Commission, nor with the meagre results that have been attained; and while we speak particularly for ourselves in this case, we think we speak the general sentiment of the city. There can be no mistaking the fact that the public mind has been greatly shocked by the revelations already made in this case; that it is indignation is deep and all-pervading that this indignation will not be appeased until some one of the guilty has been brought to justice; and that what little has been done has not tended to restore the public mind to tranquility. There is a very general suspicion that there is an effort to cover something up, or to let some one off; and while this suspicion lasts, no half-way measures will suffice to remove it. We do not say that there is any real basis for the suspicion, but we know that it exists, and that vigorous measures are necessary to dispel it.

What is wanted, just now, is a thorough, searching investigation, which will reveal the entire history of a transaction that now looks remarkably dark and difficult of comprehension. Five hundred thousand dollars of the city's money and bonds have been trifled with, and handled with an utter disregard to the city's interest. We hear of $50,000 of bonds in one lot and $68,000 in another, put into irresponsible hands and carried about in private pockets for negotiation, as if the city had no rights that any one was bound to respect, of $223,000 of the city's money on deposit in a bank to the credit, not of the city, but of an individual who had no right to its custody; of $254,000 of city bonds pledged as collateral in Philadelphia for individual notes of hand; and of various other incidents equally irregular and surprising. What the public wants to know is how all this came about; who did it; by what authority—it was done; and who is to be held responsible. Half a million of the city's property cannot thus be put in peril without *some one* being responsible for it. Who is it? The people want to know all about it; and we are not putting too fine a point upon it when we say that they *must* be told, and that right speedily.

In pressing this searching investigation, we do not stop to inquire who is going to be hurt by it. We shall be sorry for them, but they must take the consequences of their own acts. We have heard, as have the people generally, a great deal said about a "Ring" in city affairs. If there is such a "Ring," and if any one of its members is engaged in this business, let the facts come out, and we will join in hunting him down. We want to know who the guilty parties are; and we want to see them promptly prosecuted and punished, without regard to persons. The public mind of New York never gave itself rest until TWEED was convicted and sentenced; and the public sentiment of Pittsburgh cannot be quieted with anything short of the conviction and sentence of those who are guilty.

We express no opinion, be it understood, as to who is or is not guilty. *Some* one is guilty; *that* much every one knows; and what we, in common with the whole community, insist upon, is that the work of investigation shall go on remorselessly and vigorously, until the guilty ones stand fully exposed.

It was all very well for the Finance Committee to take care of the interests of the city, and secure, as well as it could, the money so singularly taken out of its grasp. We do not, upon a full consideration of all the facts, find any special fault with the terms of settlement made with the Nation Trust Company. But it is not enough, simply to secure the city from material loss. The city has been wronged; duties have been neglected; the confidence placed in public officers has been violated; and the machinery of the city government has been abused and turned to base uses. *A great public crime has been committed*, which restitution does not atone for. *That crime must be punished.* The sense of justice which every citizen feels the force of will not be satisfied until the really guilty are brought to the bar and condemned.

We award to the Finance Committee the full credit, which is its due, of having labored earnestly and zealously to save the city from pecuniary loss, in this instance. That, and so far, was all right. But the city's good name is as much at stake as her money and credit. That, too, must be vindicated, and *we want to see it vindicated by the city authorities.* It is properly their task, and it will be left in their hands if they show a willingness to meet it promptly; but if they shirk it, or attempt to shift it on to other shoulders, let them rest assured that the citizens will then take it in their own hands, as they were compelled to do in New York. We do not think there is any present necessity for that extreme measure; but there is only one way to avoid it—a prompt and impartial investigation and exposure; and if the old Councils do not grant it, we shall appeal to the new.

RESPONSIBILITY—WHERE IT BEGINS AND ENDS.

A careful perusal of the testimony of the several members of the Water Commission before the Finance Committee, as to their responsibility for the use made by their Secretary of the public money entrusted to their care, has developed a very different idea of official responsibility to that we have been accustomed to entertain.

For instance, Mr. CARROLL testified that the Commission permitted its Secretary to make sales of bonds; that the Secretary "*most generally* (not always) reported all sales;" that "the *supposition* was" that the Secretary paid all money into the city treasury realized from the sale of bonds; that he (Mr. CARROLL) never examined the books to see the balance due to the city from such sales, but "had frequent talks with the Secretary about" it; that the Commission has not, in all this year, made the quarterly reports required of it by law; that the Secretary made "statements" of his account, *in pencil*, (which statements were afterwards destroyed) in June and August; and that the Commission could easily have ascertained the true state of the Secretary's account by examining the Controller's book, *but that no such examination was made.*

Now, it is very plain from the testimony that here was a Commission to whom was confided a high trust, which neglected to perform its legal duties, and took no pains to see that its Secretary was doing his duty. It absolutely neglected to make the quarterly statements required of it by law; and while it could, at any time, have easily verified the cash account of its Secretary, it never did so. We have a very high personal regard for Mr. CARROLL; but will he say that he considers that this admitted course of his was a faithful discharge of his duty to the city in the premises?

Again: let us quote from Mr. BURGWIN'S testimony;

Q. Did you make quarterly reports?

A. Cannot say. *Could not give that branch of the business attention.* Never saw a bond receipt signed, and never signed one myself. Never saw a check. May 4th, 1872, firm began selling bonds; checks from proceeds of sales were sent to our President; Townsend, Wheeler & Co. had enough faith in the city and the Commission to send the money for bonds before their delivery; did not know until Monday week of bonds sold in Pittsburgh.

Q. In other words, you did not consider yourself bound to see to details?

A. Yes, sir.

He "could not give that branch of the business attention." Then, why was he in the business, at all? He "did not consider himself bound to see to details;" yet that was precisely what he was elected for. There was no compulsion on him to serve on the Water Commission. He sought the place and then neglected its duties. He "*could not* give that branch of the business attention;" he was too busy attending to something else. He did not consider it his business to attend to details. Then, why was he there? Judge GREEN once said to an attorney who asked a postponement of a case, because he had to try another case that day in another Court, that if attorneys had so much business that they could not attend to it, they had better advise their clients to employ other counsel. In like manner, if Mr. BURGWIN *could not* discharge the plain duties of the Commission, he had, and he has, no business on it. He ought to retire from it, and let some one else in who *can* give that branch of the business attention, and see particularly to details. Again:

Q. Could you ascertain the exact condition of the Commission financially without reports from the Controller and Treasurer?

A. As a member of the Commission *never considered. I had anything to do with keeping finances.* Depended on the Secretary and believed him to be honest, reliable and competent.

Q. Did the Commission even require statements from the Secretary?

A. Do not know, never did myself; I believe it to be the duty of the Controller to keep the accounts; never knew anything about the receipts.

Q. Was it not your duty to know?

A. That's for others to say. I think I did my duty. We never handled money, and issued no checks.

Now the records of Councils show that Mr. BURGWIN advocated the passage of the ordinance, in Councils, which gave to the Water Commission the entire control of the business of negotiating the sale of the water bonds. He was instrumental in taking that power out of the hands of the Finance Committee, where it properly belonged, (and whose members *do* consider that they have something to do with keeping finances,) and placing it in the hands of his own Commission; and yet, after seeking and obtaining the power to negotiate the sale of millions of bonds, he has the cool assurance to stand and tell the Finance Committee that he "never considered he had anything to do with keeping finances!" Why, then, did he seek to clothe the Commission with this extraordinary power, if he did not intend to have anything to do with the exercise of it? He, in common with the rest of the Commission, was entrusted with that power, solely that he and they might look after the financial interests entrusted to them, and he cannot, now, shake off his responsibility by saying that he never considered he had anything to do with it. If it had been his own business, instead of that of the city, he would not have considered that he had nothing to do with it; and why should he be less careful of the city's interests than of his own?

We are free to say that, in our view, responsibilities cannot be so easily thrown off as Mr. BURGWIN would seem to suppose. It was his duty as well as that of his colleagues, to see to the proper negotiation of the bonds given into their care; to require frequent statements from their secretary, and to verify them; and to make the reports regularly, which the law required of them. Had these duties been properly performed, the city would not have been involved in this trouble; and if the dear lesson we are now learning in the school of experience teaches nothing else, we trust that it has already conveyed to the minds of Councilmen a higher and clearer sense of personal responsibility than seems to have entered into the conceptions of the Water Commission.

We say this much more in sorrow than in anger. We have before expressed our convictions that the members of the Commission are, individually, men above suspicion—pure men, and men of the highest integrity. We repeat this conviction, now. We have not the slightest idea that any one of them ever intended the slightest wrong to the city. But purity of intention is not a sufficient cover for neglect of duty. We concede their personal honesty and integrity; but we cannot fail to mourn, in common with the people of the city generally, that they did not combine with those qualities that high consciousness of individual responsibility which, properly exercised, would have saved them and the city from a world of trouble and reproach.

THE NEW CONSTITUTION.

The last week has developed a very deep and widespread opposition to the new Constitution throughout the State. Judge READ'S admirable letter, showing how it deprives the voter of the protection of secresy for his ballot, has aroused a genuine fear among all who prize *that* as among their highest rights.

EVERY MAN WHO VALUES HIS INDEPENDENCE

as a voter will therefore vote against it, because, if it is adopted, any one who chooses can pry out and discover how he voted. Those who are in the employ of others, especially, are thereby placed at the mercy of their employers. Every man who votes for the new Constitution *votes to put a mark on his own ballot* by which it can be easily detected and known.

EVERY COLORED MAN

should vote against it because the Convention deliberately refused to put in a clause securing their equality of rights as citizens.

EVERY OWNER OF REAL ESTATE

should vote against it because it virtually restores the State tax on Real Estate.

EVERY OWNER OF STOCK IN PRIVATE CORPORATIONS

should vote against it because it puts all private corporations at the mercy of a minority of their stockholders.

EVERY LOVER OF PHILANTHROPY

should vote against it because it prohibits the State from giving aid to philanthropic institutions. And finally

EVERY LOVER OF ORDER

should vote against it because it is full of glaring faults and absurdities, which must work disorder and misrule, upset all precedents and previous practice, and which must reduce every thing to chaos as a preliminary to whatever order may thereafter be evoked. The State has prospered gloriously under the present Constitution. Therefore, "let well enough alone."

SOME QUESTIONS FOR THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

How does it come that we find Mr. SWOOPE appearing among the counsel for the city, when the Finance Committee ordered the arrest of Messrs. ARDARY, DICKSON, BLAIR and ROSS, and, when those parties claim a hearing, that we find the same Mr. SWOOPE appearing as the counsel for Messrs. ARDARY, DICKSON and ROSS?

It is not customary, in this quarter of the world, for an attorney to appear on *both* sides, at once. This may be the practice in other places; but the people in this section have somehow grown into the conviction that it is not just the thing.

An attorney has the right to appear for whom he pleases, and parties charged with crime have the right to employ such counsel as suits them; but the Finance Committee, in choosing an attorney to prosecute those whom it thinks guilty of an attempt to defraud the city, had no right to select, as the attorney of the city, one who had already been retained as the attorney of one of the parties against whom it has ordered suit to be brought, and who has since appeared as the attorney of two of the others whom it has resolved to prosecute. Mr. Ross had retained Mr. SWOOPE as his counsel, *before* the Finance Committee employed him as one of *its* counsel in the same case; and since he and the other counsel of the city were instructed to prosecute ARDARY and DICKSON, among others, he appears as *their* counsel also.

We do not object to these men employing Mr. SWOOPE, nor to his appearance on their behalf. That is his and their right. But we *do* object to his appearing as the counsel of the city in the same suit. We have, therefore, this final question to put to the Finance Committee: Is there not, at the bar, some one lawyer worthy of being employed for the city who will not appear on both sides of the same case at once?

A NEW illustration of the difficulty of obtaining correct historical data is furnished by the engineer's report of the great Hoosac tunnel enterprise. It is therein stated that in 1826 Dr. PHELPS, of Massachusetts, presented the first proposition ever made for a railroad before any legislative body in the United States. This is a mistake. In 1811, Col. JOHN STEVENS, of Hoboken, N. J., presented a memorial to the Legislature to authorize a railroad in New Jersey, and, in February, 1815, a law was passed incorporating "The New Jersey Railroad Company," authorizing a road from Trenton to New Brunswick. The road was not built, however, but in 1820 Col. STEVENS built a short railroad at Hoboken as an experiment. Locomotive steam engines had not been perfected, and the best engineers did not suppose there would be sufficient traction in plain wheels to draw a heavy weight. The railway put up by Col. STEVENS was provided with a middle rail having teeth for a driving-rack.

THE Life-saving Service of the United States now comprises eighty-one stations on the coast of Cape Cod, Rhode Island, Long Island and New Jersey, organized into three districts. Thirty-two wrecks have occurred within these districts during the year, and 235 lives have been imperilled, but only one life lost. Of $832,230 worth of property imperilled, $581,201 worth was saved, while the cost of maintaining the service during the year ending June 30, 1873, exclusive of the expenses of constructing and establishing new sections, was $87,891. Twenty-one new life-saving stations are to be established the coming season, five on the coast of Maine, five on the coast of Massachusetts, nine on the coasts of North Carolina, and one each on the coasts of New Hampshire and Virginia. While there are thousands of useless expenses which should be lopped off by Congress, such a humane improvement as that to save the lives of seamen and sea travelers wrecked upon our coast, deserves ample endowment from the nation. We have a dangerous coast to approach in winter time, and hence the obligation to lessen the perils by all proper means.

The total immigration of the last fiscal year was 459,903; males, 275,792; females, 184,011; an increase of 54,997, or 13½ per cent. over the preceding year. The estimated average value of an immigrant is $800, so that the nation is worth, through the new comers, $367,842,400 more than it would be without them.

There is in Paris a restaurant where the most horrible monstrosities of all kinds come to dine; where may be seen giants, dwarfs, fat women, men with no legs or arms, faces with horrid leer, and well-feigned malformations of every shape and form. This is worse than a Democratic Convention.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

Cuba was discovered by Columbus in 1492, and has always remained in Spanish possession though Spain did not succeed in completely conquering it until 1512.

An illustrated paper writes on "the idiot as a subject of art." It often happens that "art" is the subject chosen by an idiot.

It is said that the present stringency in the money market has reduced the price of coffins twenty per cent. Now is the time for impenitent back-payers to die with advantage for their country.

Just after we have settled one question of damages, it is rank folly to give England a counter hold on us by publishing Don Piatt's foreign letters.

Bishop Meade was very saucy when he said, recently, "Our girls are poorly educated, but our boys will never find it out." He hit the mark, however.

The Speakership is fast becoming, if it has not already become, the second instead of the third office under the Government, outranking the Vice Presidency, in consideration and patronage.

Connecticut papers tell of a man in that State who can repeat, word for word, every book and newspaper article that he has read for the past ten years. That is either a lie, or the man can't read.

Among the poor of New York there are six or eight thousand beggars and loafers who decline to work under any circumstances.

A glad poverty is an honest thing.

There is a movement in the Kentucky Legislature so to amend the General Statutes as to relieve a man of the dreadful necessity of being born of his widow. This is a benevolent object, and we hope it may succeed.

The Chicago journals are boasting that Chicago is to be the headquarters of the new religion—the Reformed Episcopal Church. All new religions begin as missionary work, and go where the old ones have failed. Chicago, therefore, is the natural place for starting the movement.

The theory of geologists that Kansas was once covered with water, receives confirmation from the fact that specimens of shale from the coal shaft, at Council Grove, exhibit well formed, clearly defined rice, grain and stem, so perfectly formed that they look almost natural; also, marine plants and shells of the coal formation period.

There is more than one indication that Mormonism has passed the zenith of its power; and not the least of them is the announcement from Salt Lake of the return thence to Europe of several parties of disgusted converts, and that others are preparing to follow.

The Postoffice Department has decided, in reply to a question asked by a business man, whether he would be permitted to have his initials or name written, printed or stamped on postage stamps intended for his use, that the department will not accept in payment of postage, stamps that have been defaced in any manner whatever.

Complaints are made that the great national Yellowstone park is being robbed of its fine mineral specimens and otherwise despoiled by tourists. The trouble is attributable to the fact that its keeper's salary was not provided for by a Congressional appropriation.

Florida journals say that the falling of Northern orders for lumber, owing to the financial depression, has led to an increase of foreign trade. There are now six or seven vessels loading at Jacksonville for West Indian and South American ports.

The great "Sutcliff" gun, named after its inventor, was successfully cast at the West Point Foundry, on Monday. This weapon, when finished, will be fifteen feet in length, with a barrel four inches thick at the breech, and three at the muzzle rifle bored and weighing 45,000 pounds. It will cast a projectile nine inches in diameter, and weighing two hundred and fifty pounds.

Berlin will have the next European world's exhibition.

The more sagacious and experienced of operators in grain, it is said, are confident that the "rise in wheat," which has been predicted ever since the panic sent prices down to the low figures, has already put in an appearance.

"Every man his own convention," is the latest device in politics.

Strangely enough, a recommendation for the abolition of lotteries in Rome comes to the Italian government from a congress of scientific gentlemen recently assembled at the Eternal City.

Some of the Western towns are comparing their bread bills and their bar bills and growling about hard times. St. Paul admits that it spends about $600,000 a year for liquor and only $400,000 for flour.

The Old World centers of consumption have discovered that leather tanned in the United States is better than that prepared by European tanners, and, consequently, give it the preference.

St. Louis is agitated over the discovery of frauds in the city government, and the press is making it exceedingly hot for the present administration, which by the way is Democratic.

By a recent decision of the Secretary of the Treasury, no duties are henceforth to be charged on importations of tropical fruits.

Barbers complain that people are letting their beards grow to avoid the expense of shaving; but the empirics who advertise hair-dyes are elated at this, and force their nostrums upon the market with redoubled vigor.

A curious question has been raised in Mississippi. The Constitution demands that the Governor and Lieutenant-Governor of the State shall have been citizens of the United States for twenty years, while the citizenship of A. K. Davis, the new Lieutenant Governor, only dates back to the Emancipation Proclamation.

The debt of Alabama is officially announced as amounting to $24,410,496. This is equal to a debt of $24 48 upon each man, woman and child in the State, and of $122 41 upon each voter.

There is no law in Georgia that forbids the marriage of fools. A Georgia justice, who, some time ago, tied a nuptial knot in a graveyard, has just presided at a marriage ceremony in a bar-room.

PERSONAL.

After a short visit home, the Vice President is going South—probably to remain several weeks. During a part of the time he will be the guest of Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe, at her Florida residence. While as well as ever in other respects, he still suffers from the blood left on his brain by the breaking of a blood vessel, last May. His physicians say that it will require several months yet for him to get entirely rid of this, and that he will be fortunate if the end of a year finds him quite well. A similar difficulty once kept Professor Agassiz three years from all work, but he recovered completely.

Jeff. Davis once concluded a speech on slavery with a threat that, if the North did not yield to the demands of the South, the States of that section would depart, "like the ten tribes of Israel;" when John P. Hale, who died lately, sprang to his feet, and, in his magnificent voice, said: "And what became of the ten tribes of Israel? Dispersed, scattered, lost; and no one knows what became of them; but the Ark of the Covenant of the living God remained with the tribe of Judah."

Society is to have another sensation this season. In the latter part of January, Ernest, Duke of Saxe Coburg Gotha, will arrive in this country, where he will remain about a year. He is a brother-in-law of Queen Victoria, a general in the German army, and will be the first sovereign prince who has ever visited this country. But, pshaw, he is fifty years of age.

Seven hundred Norwegians, with half a million capital, Lutherans in creed, teetotalers in practice, and one-half young married people, sail the second week in January from Gothenburg for the vicinage of Vineland, New Jersey. The company are equal if not superior to any from Norway in composition, and their intelligence is testified in the fact that a newspaper will be issued while the trunks are being unpacked.

A very touching incident is related of a little girl of Mr. Sigourney, of Boston, who was lost, with his family, in the Ville Du Havre, that prior to their sailing, and though elated with the prospect of a voyage, she persisted in saying, "But we are all going to be drowned!" Had they reached France in safety, nothing would have been thought of the childish expression, but now it is remembered as almost prophetic.

Professor Agassiz is lying seriously ill at his residence, in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The Boston *Transcript* notes the fact that three gentlemen named William Sprague have served in Congress. The eldest was in the House of Representatives in 1830-7, and in 1842 was elected a Senator from Rhode Island, serving two years. He died in 1851. William Sprague, a native of Rhode Island, was a member of Congress from Michigan in 1850-1. He died in 1856. William Sprague, now United States Senator, is a nephew of the gentleman first named. He has held his present office since 1862.

The statement in an English paper that by desire of Pius IX. a secret caucus of Cardinals had been held, at which it was resolved that the Cardinal Archbishop of Perugia should be designated to the Papal throne that must soon become vacant, has not received credence in Europe.

An Indiana exchange beautifully says of a recent religious concert: "Then Miss *T. Deum* sang a very nice song."

Colonel Sinn, a Baltimore theatrical manager, has made a liberal donation to a soup-house of that city. Those in charge are not likely to say "Sinn, no more."

SINKING OF THE FLORIDA.

A Reminiscence of the Late War—A Parallel for the Arapiles Case.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

The sinking of the coal barge in the outlet of the dry-docks in Brooklyn, preventing the egress of the Spanish iron-clad Arapiles, taken in connection with the Virginius problem, had a parallel during our late war, in the case of the Florida.

The Florida was captured in the harbor of Bahia, Brazil, by the United States gunboat Wachusetts, October 7th, 1864, and taken to Hampton Roads. Notwithstanding the fact that our own Government considered the Florida a pirate and prey fit to be taken in any waters, the Brazilian government did not so view the matter, and set up such an infernal yell that the British Lion and French Eagle came to her assistance and indorsed the demand made by Brazil for the immediate return of the Florida, with the yellow and green emblem of Brazil at her masthead, and the punishment of the Captain of the Wachusetts.

Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Seward, having their hands about as full of war as they wanted, after mature deliberation, and the application of sweet oil to the ruffled feathers of our national bird, decided to return her. Meantime, orders were issued to have necessary repairs on the Florida, and supplies delivered to her at Fortress Monroe.

At that time General Butler was in command at the fort. General Weitzel was there also. These officers were determined that everything should be done properly and in order, with an eye single to the honor of the nation. Unfortunately, one night—it was fearfully dark that night—the coal transport steamer, bringing fuel from Washington, struck the Florida and sprung a leak in her. Signals were immediately displayed, and a fire engine was dispatched from the fort, and her pumps were applied to the leaky vessel.

In a short time it was apparent that the pump was gaining on the leak; but unfortunately, at this juncture, a bull-headed officer in charge of the operations ordered the pump to stop, while he descended into the hold of the Florida to put stoppers in the holes. The Florida was very rotten near the injured part, and the officer, in stumbling around among the bottom timbers, put his foot through the planking, as a man would, when walking between joists, through a ceiling, thus greatly enlarging the leak. Finding the water gaining, he retreated, gallantly fighting the coming tide, filling and emptying his canteen a number of times. Finding everything useless, the party was finally compelled to desert the Florida, which went down in twenty fathoms of water, just showing the Brazilian flag from the peak over the waters of the surrounding bay. The race and mortification of Gen. Butler can scarcely be appreciated. Imagine a man with delicate feelings under the circumstances! Capt. Collins, of the Wachusetts, was severely dealt with—was given a year's leave of absence, and retired to a hundred thousand dollars estate the citizens of New York voted him.

Should a similar accident happen the Virginius—which, according to mathematics, is highly improbable—our people would be justly entitled to believe it "entirely too thin."

TAR.

STATE NEWS.

Dr. Frederick W. Lewis and Mr. William V. Long, who had been connected with the editorial department of the Philadelphia *Public Record* from the time of its first issue until compelled by ill-health to suspend labor, died on Monday of pulmonary disease.

A new daily paper is talked of in Easton, with J. Gibson Fields, Esq., as editor and proprietor. If Mr. G. has some money and wants to get rid of it, he could conceive of no better plan.

Jeffrey Johns, Esq., of Schuylkill township, Chester county, has lost ten or twelve calves out of a large lot he received last fall from New York, by pleuro pneumonia.

A young man of Minersville, Schuylkill county, attempted suicide one night last week, because his girl insulted him.

Alexander Thompson, an aged and prominent citizen of Porter township, Schuylkill county, died last week, aged sixty years. He was the father of twenty children, seventeen of whom with their mother survive.

The Philadelphia *Press* offered a prize of a half-chest of tea for the best essay on tea-parties, to be written by a boy or girl under sixteen years of age, and it was won by W. G. O. Keys, a Lebanon boy of thirteen years.

The inmates of the Chester county almshouse now number between three and four hundred—more than have been accommodated at one time at that institution for quite a number of years. This is attributable to the many persons out of employment.

Twenty-one aged persons died in Philadelphia last week, viz.: Eliza Pernier, aged 81; Eleanor Conmy, 81; Sarah L. Slingluff, 81; Benjamin Muirhead, 81; Ann Scollon, 82; Mary McCann, 82; Sarah Davenport, 83; Dr. Lewis P. Gebhart, 83; Mary Moore, 83; John Turner, 83; Ann Sink, 85; Anna M. Bittle, 85; Mary Detwiler, 86; John Tennent, 86; Peter Thomson, 86; William Thomas, 87; Eleanor Reading, 88; Catharine Pidgeon, 89; Rebecca Harner, 90; John Kelleher, 90; and Mary A. Wilson, 98.

"To what base uses may we come at last." The only brown-stone front building in Danville is used as a meat-shop.

A "hard times" ball is to be given at St. Petersburg, Clarion county, about the holidays. Gentlemen must wear patched clothing and unblacked boots, and ladies nothing finer than calico, while all jewelry will be tabooed. The supper will consist of mush-and-milk and baked potatoes.

Michael Strain, a hotel clerk in Oil City, died suddenly on Sunday, from the effects of excessive indulgence in intoxicating liquors. He was a young man of fine business abilities, and greatly liked by all with whom he had dealings.

Edward M. Eberman, of Strasburg, Lancaster county, died suddenly on Monday morning, while sitting in his chair. Mr. E. was cashier of the First National bank, Strasburg.

It is rather hard to have nice facts disturbed by subsequent explanations. In Reading, a few days ago, a man's life was saved by the ball from a pistol accidentally discharged entering a Bible which he carried in his pocket. Everybody said, "See how the religious are rewarded!"—until it was discovered that this devotee had stolen the sacred volume and was on his way to pawn it for liquor.

A sad accident occurred in Meshoppen township, Wyoming county, one day last week. Wesley Jayne, son of David Jayne, was cleaning a gun with the muzzle near his breast, and in some manner the weapon was discharged, lodging the contents in his side. He died almost instantly.

Schuylkill county has more newspapers in proportion to its population than any county in the State.

Harry Howard, aged twenty-two years, committed suicide by drowning, at Eden, Lancaster county, on Sunday. He was delirious from fever at the time.

The regular physicians of Scranton had "Dr." McBride, otherwise the King of Pain (always spell it with big K and P), arrested the other day, for practicing in that city without license. They offered to withdraw the suit if the "Doctor" would have his hair cut, but this he refused to do, preferring to pay a fine and costs and leave the heathen of Scranton to their fate.

Asher Shaver, an ungrateful youth, robbed his father of $500, last week, and left for parts unknown, in company with a fast female. Shaver, Sr., lives in Jackson township, Luzerne county.

A very curious and valuable contribution to American history is about to be made in a work which J. W. Bouton will publish, and which was prepared from MSS, preserved in the State Paper Department of her Majesty's Public Record Office, England, under the editorship of John Camden Hotten. It contains "original lists of emigrants, religious exiles, political rebels, servants sold for a term of years, apprentices, children stolen, maidens pressed, and others who went from Great Britain to the American plantations 1600-1700, with their ages, localities where they formerly lived in the mother country, the names of the ships in which they embarked, and other interesting particulars."

The Cook-room of the Body.

The food that has been cooked in the kitchen must be recooked in the stomach before it can be applied to the nourishment of the body. As a means of facilitating this second cooking, in cases where the process is slowly and imperfectly performed, Hostetter's Stomach Bitters is invaluable. It promotes the generation of heat in the living laboratory in which the crude materials for building up and recruiting the human frame are turned into convertible ailment. But this is not all. It acts beneficially upon the cellular membrane which secretes the gastric juice, upon the liver, which produces that natural laxative, the bile, upon the vessels which receive the digested food, and upon the absorbents which connect the digestive organs with the channels of circulation. If any portion of this complex machinery is out of order the Bitters will set it right, thus promoting vigorous digestion, healthy secretion, and the production of pure, rich, life-sustaining blood.

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Chartered in 1862.

Open daily from 9 to 4 o'clock, and on SATURDAY EVENINGS, from May 1st to November 1st, 7 to 8 o'clock, and from November 1st to May 1st, 6 to 8 o'clock. Interest paid on the 1st of Feb. Per Cent., computed from the 1st and 15th of each month, and if not withdrawn is added to the principal, forming part of the Stock of Profits, &c., furnished at the office.

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FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, December 10, 1873.

There seems to be a disposition on the part of the banks to reform their methods of doing business and to get clear of any practices that they believe to have been hurtful and which have helped to bring about the present condition of affairs. First among these is the habit of paying interest on deposits. The habit of so doing is based on the truth that the use of money represents to them a value and that therefore they should pay whatever it is worth; that such is true there can be no doubts the error of the past has been in the rate of interest paid and the want of discrimination as to the character of the account. Many of the banks have been paying interest at the rate of four, five and six per cent., and in some cases as high as seven per cent. on the daily balances of private parties, as well as of other banks, driven to it, against their better judgment, by the fact that some few institutions, believed to be in good standing, but very desirous of gaining new business, were offering such terms to the public. These latter banks have kept a stream of circulars going through the mails, and have employed traveling agents to make a personal canvass of the whole country, soliciting the the account of every bank and individual they could reach.

As a result the more conservative banks would receive notice from their depositors that they were offered these liberal terms by institutions supposed to be equally reliable and been asked to grant the same privileges; rather than lose the accounts of valuable depositors they have gradually but reluctantly consented to do so.

The cases in which the banks are justified in paying interest, seem to us to be about as follows:

On certificate of deposit, for not less than six months, the rate of interest to be regulated by the time the certificate has to run, that rate never to exceed 5 per cent. per annum, the certificate to be considered as renewed for the same time it was originally drawn, unless notice be given thirty days before maturity of the intention to demand payment when due.

On the reserve deposits of correspondent banks, in sums not less than three or five thousand dollars, and no interest to be allowed when the amount falls under that amount for any time during the current month, the rate of interest to be fixed not greater than 4 per cent per annum.

The sums thus held would at all times be available for use in discounting and would be safe with the exception of such times as followed the suspension of Jay Cooke & Co., where there is no system, however conservative, that would be able to stand a demand for the whole of the deposits on hand.

Another vicious practice, which has grown like a parasite on the banking system, drawing its life and strength in a silent but almost unperceptible manner, is that of making city banks a general clearing house for the whole country round, taking checks on deposit at par that are drawn on foreign points, the same as checks on city banks.

To an institution in the city with a large circle of correspondents, the theory that they can handle country checks without loss, is very plausible; they say that they credit them to one account, and on the same day charge them to another, so that there can be no loss of interest, forgetting that a large amount of the funds credited on their books is constantly traveling in the mails; and experience proves that many of their accounts will show overdrawn on their books a great portion of the time, from the charges made by themselves, while they cannot afford to throw out checks on such accounts as the overdraft is not the fault of the drawer of the check.

And in order to talk all points in their neighborhood without charge, they must arrange with banks where they have no regular correspondent to make remittances at stated intervals without other charge than the use of the funds so collected.

In consequence they are paying interest on every dollar that comes into their hands for every day in the year, while a very large percentage of their funds are earning them nothing—being in course of transmission or in hands of collection agents—and it is necessary to carry a reserve of not less than *forty per cent.* to meet the demands on this class of deposits, which fluctuates rapidly from day to day.

Of the history of the rise, progress and fall of this system, something might be said. It had its inception with the National bank of Philadelphia in 1865, which bank, happily seeing the error of its ways, reformed and fled from the wrath to come, in time to go triumphantly through the panic; but the animating spirit which presided at its incention was transferred to another field.

Other Philadelphia banks—New York and this city—were gradually drawn into the same manner of transacting business, until finally every monetary center was acting as a clearing house for the neighboring country.

The tortuous windings of country checks, covered with indorsements on every available space, in order to avoid paying an honest exchange, due for the trouble of collecting, was wonderful—sometimes visiting this city a third time, and each time through a different bank, before going to the bank on which they were drawn.

The storm of the panic has about passed, and, for the time, has destroyed the worst features of past errors; yet there are already signs of their reappearance in circulars offering almost the same liberal terms "believing that conservative banking will justify them," are again flying through the mails. Traveling agents for banking companies, as importunate as commission drummers for grocery houses, are perambulating the State, and all the efforts of desperate competition are employed. As the burnt child dreads the fire, so the banking public views these efforts.

There is little doubt that the spirit which brought into life, and matured into strength this system of "liberal banking" has done more to demoralize the banks of the whole State than any one other influence which has been at work, and any effort to revive it should be frowned upon and discouraged.

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, }
WEDNESDAY, December 10, 1873. }

The receipts by river and rail the past twenty-four hours indicate the following as the supply of the leading commodities for this market:

Flour, bbls	816	Wheat, sacks	312
Apples, bb s	163	Oats, sacks	170
Butter, pkgs	29	(6½ sacks)	340
Bacon, pcs	8,700	Oats, sacks	650
Bacon, tcs	28	Potatoes, bush	1,130

As indicated above the receipts have materially fallen off, but the stocks in store appear to be equal to the demands of the market, which is only moderately active. Values are steady, with no material change in prices in any of the departments of the market. Flour—There has been no change to note in the price of flour from store, but with light receipts and a fair export demand the feeling prevailing is very strong. Groceteries—The market for groceries continues quiet, with an average local business doing. The feeling in coffees continues strong, notwithstanding the late advance, and some dealers think prices will go still higher. Provisions—Trade in cured meats is fairly active, with the demand confined to the local trade, and prices remain steady.

The following are the receipts of the leading articles of produce received during the past two weeks:

	Last week.	This week.	Total.
Flour, bbls	1,672	816	2,488
Apples, bbls	1,494	1,293	2,384
Cheese, bxs	1,665	1,492	3,157
Corn, sks	2,402	1,705	3,107
Wheat, sks	4,760	3,044	7,804
Barley, sks	2,200	1,999	3,119
Rye, sks	1,929	1,690	2,299
Oats, sks	6,467	3,118	9,584
Butter, pks	307	147	355
Bacon, pcs	10,000	25,650	35,653
Bacon, tcs	128	130	258

The following will indicate the state of trade in detail in the city markets, together with the latest quotations on the leading commodities from store:

APPLES.—The receipts have materially fallen off, and as the demand is an average one, the feeling is somewhat stronger, though prices are without change. Russet sales are made at $1 to $1 50 per bbl for common to medium and at $2 50@4 00 for prime to choice.

ASHES.—The market is dull, with but little doing. The nominal rates are: Soda Ash, common, 3½@4c; Refined, 4½c; Potash, 9c; Pearl, 10c; Arsenic, 6@6½c; Black Lead, 5c.

ALES.—The market is firm, with a fair demand. The card prices are as follows: X $ bbl, $7; XX, $8; India ale $10 ₩ bbl; Bass' English ale, in gilderkins of 32 gals, $22 ₩ bbl; 18 gals, 41 gals, $12 25@44 bbls, 66 gals, $6 50@65; 4; in bbls, 2 bottles, $17 50; Wm. Youngers' India pale ale in cases of 3 doz bottles, $3 ₩ doz; Robt. Younger's sparkling ale $3 ₩ doz; Guinness stouts, bottled by E & A. Burke, $3 ₩ doz; Cantrell & Cochrane's ginger ale $3 25 ₩ doz; Caswells, Hazard & Co's ginger ale $1 75 ₩ doz.

BEANS.—The demand is limited and the market is dull. Sales at $2@2 40 for fair to choice.

BORAX.—Refined 20c ₩ lb.

BROOM-CORN AND BROOMS.—The market continues quiet and prices are steady; sales at 4@4½c ₩ lb.

BANNER BAKING POWDER.—Market steady; sales per doz ₩ lb cans, $1 60; ½ lb do $2 00; 1 lb do $3 50; 5 lb cans, $17 50 per dozen.

BROOM CORN.—Market quiet with sales red and red topped 5½@6½; fair to good green 7½@8¾. Hurl 2½@10c per lb.

BUTTER.—The receipts are meagre, while the demand is fairly active. Prices, however, are firm but unchanged. Sales are made at 25@30c per ₩ for choice roll, and 15@20c for common, the inquiry for which is limited.

BACON AND PROVISIONS.—The arrivals continues quite heavy, and with a limited demand, prices are steady at the late advanced card rates. Below are the rates:

Extra sugar cured hams 13c; shoulders 9½c; plain 8½c; breakfast bacon 11½c; dried beef, S. C., 15½c; beef tongues $7 50 per dozen; rib sides 9½c; short rib 9c; clear 10; mess pork $16 00 per bbl; ham sausage 10c; lard, refined in tierces 8½c; half barrels 10c; buckets 10½c; in three lb caddies 12c; in five lb caddies 11½c; in three pound pails 12½c; in six lb pails 12½c per lb.

CARBON OIL.—The market continues dull with prices are unchanged. Sales at 18c for works free on cars 16@16½c per gallon, and the usual advance for small lots.

CIDER.—In good supply with sales at $5@9 per bbl.

CRANBERRIES.—The current rates are $10 to $13 per bbl; $3 50 to $4 per bush.

CONCENTRATED LYE.—Dealers report sales at $7 50 @8 per case of four dozen packages.

CORN MEAL.—The supply continues to meet the demands of the market, with sales at $30 ₩ ton for unbolted meal, and in a small way at $1 60 ₩ cwt. from store.

CRACKERS.—Trade continues satisfactory. Prices for the following grades remain firm but unchanged, we quote: Lemon biscuit 11½c; ginger snaps 12½c; oyster crackers 7c; soda crackers 7c; sugar crackers 9½c; butter crackers 7c; water do 7½c ₩ lb.

CEMENT.—We have nothing new to report in regard to this article. Prices were as follows: Rosendale's Phœnix $3 60@3 75; Louisville $3 25@3 50; Rosedale $4; Head 50's, white lime $2 00; calcined plaster $4 50; land plaster $3 00@3 50.

CHEESE.—The receipts have fallen off, but the stock in store is fully up to the demand. Prices continue steady but unchanged. We note sales in small lots at 14½@15c; in car loadlots at 13½@14½c, and dairy at 11@12c. Young America 13c; New York Goshen 15c; Switzer 16@18c.

DRESSED HOGS.—Sales at 5¾@6c.

DRIED FRUIT.—The market is rather quiet, with regular sales of peaches and apples at 6@8c for the former, and 10@12c per lb for the latter.

EGGS.—The receipts are again light and prices are very firm, with sales at 18@20c ₩ dozen for pickled, and 26@31c ₩ doz for strictly fresh.

FISH.—Prices remain unchanged. We quote: No. 1 extra mess mackerel $26; No. 1 mess do, $23; extra No. 1 shore mackerel, $23; No. 1 shore mackerel, $20; extra No. 2 bay mackerel, $19; No. 2 bay mackerel, $14 large No. 3 mackerel, $12 50; No. 3 mackerel, $10; split Labrador herring, $8 to $9; white fish, $7 50@8 00 lake trout, $7 00@7 50; large Georges codfish $7@7 50 ₩ 100; medium Georges codfish, $6 50 ₩ 100; red herring, scale 500 ₩ box; No. 1 do ₩ box.

FEATHERS.—There is little or nothing doing and can be quoted at 75@80c ₩ lb; No. 2 C, 45@73c as to quality and quantity.

FLOUR.—The market continues moderately active, and as the arrivals have fallen off to-day, prices will probably rule firmer. Below will be found the prices of the different grades from store:

State amber wheat	$8 25@8 50
State red wheat	7 75@8 00
Family St. Louis	9 00@9 50
Fancy Kentucky white wheat	8 25
Good Ohio red wheat	7 50@7 75
Wisconsin Spring wheats	6 50@7 75
Minnesota Spring wheats	7 00@7 25
Rye flour	5 25@5 50

GRAIN.—The receipts of grain have also materially fallen off, and the market continues fairly active, with prices for the different kinds very buoyant.

Wheat—Sales are reported as follows: Fair to prime Red Winter at $1 43@1 45; Amber $1 55; and White at $1 60.

Oats—Sales at the following rates: Mixed at 46c; and prime white at 49@50c per bushel.

Corn—Shelled is here in fair supply; new car 60.

Rye—The nominal rate is 75c.

Barley—The market is still reported in an unsettled condition, and it is difficult to obtain correct quotations. We therefore give $1 25@1 40 as the nominal prices.

GROCERIES.—The stock in store is large, and the market still continues quiet. There are few changes in values to note. The coffee market continues excited, with every indication that prices will go higher. Below are the quotations:

Coffee—Choice Rio 25¼@27c; good to prime 25½c; fair to good 24@25½c; roasted one lb packages, 31c; less 50c.

Sugar—Patent cut loaf 12¾c; crushed, powdered and granulated 11¾c; standard A 10¾c; B 10¼c; Ex C 10¼c.

Tea—Young Hyson 50@81 10 ₩ lb; Gunpowder 50@81 25; Imperial 50@1 00 ₩ lb; Japan 50@81 00 ₩ lb; Oolong 25@50c ₩ lb; fancy $1 00 ₩ lb; Souchong 25@50c.

Molasses—Choice New Orleans 75c; prime 68@ 70c.

Syrups—Extra White Drips 70c; Sugar Drips, 69c; Amber 60@65c; lower grades 35@40c, as to quality.

Rice—Choice Caroline 8¾c; Patna 8c; Rangoon 7¾c.

Honey—Selling at 33@35c.

Pearl Barley—Nos. 3 and 6, 7c ₩ lb.

Oat Meal—5 and 8, 6¾c ₩ lb.

Candles—Star, 21c ₩ lb; sperline, 14c ₩ lb; mould.

GAME.—The market continues dull at the following rates:

Deer—Undressed, 8@10c ₩ lb. Long Saddles, 15@18c; Hams 18@20c.

Quail—$2 00 per dozen.

Partridges—$1 00 per dozen.

Rabbit—$2 50 per dozen.

Squirrels—$1 00 per dozen.

Wild Turkey—$9 00@12 00 each.

HOPS.—The market has undergone no change; we are reported sales at $4 50@5 00 per bbl.

ONIONS.—Are in good supply with sales in a regular way at $4 00@4 50 per bbl.

PICKLES.—Medium, bbls, $10; medium half bbls, $6 50; half bbls Boston mixed, $8 00; pints, plain or mixed, per dozen, 90c@$1 00; quarts, plain or mixed, per dozen, $1 50; quarts, plain, $5 50; half bbls Boston, pints, plain or mixed, per dozen, $1 50; quarts, plain or mixed, per dozen, $2 00; English mixed pickles, quarts, $3 00; English mixed pickles, pints, $2 00; English mixed pickles, quarts, $6 00; English cauliflower, pints, $3 00; English cauliflower, quarts, $6 00; English picalili, pints, $3 50; English picalili, quarts, $6 00; English white onions, pints, $4 50; English white onions, quarts, $8 00; English gherkins, pints, $3 75; English gherkins, quarts, $6 00; English Mofussil, pickles, pints, $4 50.

POTATOES.—The receipts continue limited and while the demand is fair, prices are very firm. Sales in small lots at $1 05@1 10 ₩ bushel for prime Peachblows, and mixed at 90@95c.

MILL FEED.—We have no change to note in prices. Coarse Shorts is quoted firmer at $19 00; fine do per ton. We quote: Middlings $22@30 per ton; from store $1 25@ 1 50 ₩ 100 lbs; sacks and coarse corn shops, $1 35@1 40 per 100 lbs; bran $1@1 25 per ton.

MINCE MEATS.—The demand continues light but we have no change to note in prices. We quote at 11@13c per lb by the ¼ bbl, and 12c per lb by the tub.

MAGS.—The market is dull and nominal at 2¾ to 3c per lb.

MARCOLIO.—Sales at $6 per case of 6 doz, and $5 per case for hand sapolio.

SEEDS.—The market was devoid of animation. Flax seed was held at $1 55@1 60. There was no demand for timothy or clover.

VINEGAR.—Cholbour cider vinegar can be quoted at 10@15c ₩ gallon; white wine, 35c ₩ gallon and charge for packages.

WHISKY.—A shade lower, with sales of highwines at 95@96c per gallon.

PITTSBURGH OIL TRADE.

OFFICE OF THE DAILY COMMERCIAL, }
THURSDAY, December 11, 1873. }

REMARKS.—The market could not be called an active one; buyers continue very shy, and are indifferent about taking hold. We learn by private dispatches of the sinking of two new wells that will add to the daily production about ten thousand barrels per day. The next question is, what do you propose to do with it?

CRUDE.

We heard of no sales in the market. The last one reported was at 2¾c per gallon. The same price would buy more. The following sales were made at PARKER'S.

1,000 bbls Union pipe	97½c
2,000 bbls Union pipe	95c
2,000 bbls Mutual	87½c

For prices at other points, see dispatches.

REFINED.

The market remains as last quoted. The rates on cars at the works are 16¾@17c, according to the amount purchased.

Philadelphia—Spot 13¾c; futures—January, 13¾c; February, 14c; March 14¼c; April, 15c ₩ gallon.

New York—Market quiet; December, 14c; January, 14c; February, 14¼c.

OIL BARRELS.

Market steady: City $1 85; country $1 75.

[By Western Union Telegraph Line.]

TITUSVILLE, December 10.—"The Herald" says: The petroleum market opened firm but closed weaker owing to the report of a large strike. On the upper road the market closed at $1 15. The markets in Oil City was quoted at $1 10. At Parkers the market closed at 87½ for Standard and 95@97½ for United pipe. The home refined market is in bulk, and 2¾ in barrels. Sales and resales of crude petroleum:

1,000 bbls, upper road, spot	1 15
2,000 bbls, upper road, spot	1 12½
500 bbls, upper road, spot	1 18½
1,000 bbls, Oil City spot	1 07½
1,000 bbls, Oil City spot	1 10
1,000 bbls, Parker's, Union pipe	97½
1,000 bbls, Parker's, Union pipe	95
2,000 bbls, Parkers United pipe	87½

NEW YORK, December 10, closing 9.—Market strong on speculative account. Crude, in bulk, 5¼c. Refined, 14c; sales 3,500 bbls January at 14c; 5,000 bbls high test, February, 13¾c. Cased 18@20c. Naphtha 8¾@8¾c. Philadelphia delivery active and prices firm. Refined 13¾@13¾c; sales 5,000 bbls February at 13¾c.

PETROLEUM CENTRE, December 10.—Market steady; sales at $1.

TIDIOUTE, December 10.—Market steady at 90c.

ROUSSVILLE, December 10.—Market quiet at 85c and not so firm.

OIL CITY, December 10.—Market quiet and weak; nothing doing and nominal at $1 05.

TITUSVILLE, December 10.—Market quiet and steady at $1 10@1 12½.

PARKERS, December 10.—Market 85@93½c.

PHILADELPHIA, December 10.—Market firm; S. W. 12¾c; crude 4½c; cases 19c; sales none. Futures, January at 13½c; February 14c; March 14¼c; April 15c.

[By Pacific and Atlantic Lines.]

TITUSVILLE, December 10.—The market closed weaker owing to reports of large strikes in the lower districts. Sales on upper road at 2,000 spot at $1 17½; 2,000 do, $1 15. Parkers, 1,000 Union at $1 07½; 2,000 do, 95c; 500 do, 95c; 2,000 United, 87½c.

PARKERS, December 10.—The market quiet at 85c. Not much doing.

TITUSVILLE, December 10.—Market steady but quiet at $1 12½@1 15.

TIDIOUTE, December 10.—Market quiet and weaker at 86c; not much doing.

OIL CITY, December 10.—Market firm and little disposition to operate at $1 00@1 10.

PHILADELPHIA, December 10.—Refined 13¾c; crude 4¾c; in bbls 10½c; January 13¾c; February 14c; March 14¼c; April 15c ₩ gallon.

NEW YORK, December 10.—Crude 5¾c; refined 14c; market quiet and not much doing.

Crude Oil Received by A. V. R. R.

Shipper.	Consignee.	Bbls.
B S Duncan	Standard O W	937
H and B	Penn O W	155
Tack & M	Citizens O W	773
H McKelvey	Cosmos O W	717
B S Duncan	American O W	717

Crude Oil Received by Rail and River.

	Bbls.		Bbls.
Standard O W	937	Cosmos Oil Works	74
Penn O W	155	Keystone Refining	717
Citizens O W	773	Total	2,716

PITTSBURGH LIVE STOCK MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, }
WEDNESDAY, December 10, 1873. }

The receipts of cattle this week have been fair, both of through stock destined for the Eastern markets, and those intended for sale at this point. The market at the opening was a little slow, owing perhaps to the fact that holders hold cattle firm at last week's prices, and seemed inclined rather to advance than lower them. The attendance of buyers is good, and from appearances all the cattle in the yards will change hands. There are some Christmas or holiday cattle on sale this week. They are rather dull sale, and some holders are shipping them further east. Sadler, Haven & Co. sold for J. L. Cotswell, of Rush county, Indiana, three fancy steers, said to be the finest here for one year. They were really extra cattle, having taken the prize at the Indiana State Fair, being entered in three classes and taking all of them. They brought $6 ₩ lb. Market closes active and firm on all grades, at about the following figures:

Extra 1,400 to 1,500 lbs steers, fine and smooth	$6 25 to 6 50
Extra 1,300 lbs	5 75 to 6 00
Prime 1,200 lbs	5 00 to 5 50
Fair 1,100 lbs	4 25 to 4 75
Fair 1,000 lbs	4 00
Common	3 50 to 3 75

Hogs.

The run of hogs fair. Quality fair. The attendance of buyers good and market active, and prices higher. Best hogs selling at $5 15 per hundred lbs, and $5 10 to 25c higher than last week. Market closes firm at the following rates:

Extra Philadelphia	$5 15; prime do $5 10; Yorkers, $4 65@4 85.

Sheep.

The run of sheep fair. The attendance of buyers good. Market active and prices firm and inclined higher. Following are the current rates:

Extra 100 lbs	$5 25; extra 95 lbs, $5; prime 90 lbs, $4 75; prime 85 lbs, $4 25@4 50; fair, 80 lbs, $4.

Iron Movement at St Louis.

The following were the receipts and shipments for the week ending Saturday, December 6, 1873:

Routes.	Receipts. Ore.	Tons.	Pig.	Ore.	Pig. Tons.
St L and I M R W	535	227			
A and P R W to Carondelet	30				
A and P R W to Carondelet	250				
St L, V T H and I R W			10	20	
St L, V T H and I R W			20	6	
C, A and St L R W			20		730
O and M R W			45		10
Lower Mississippi River				150	
Total tons	1,065	231	119	730	
Week previous	2,140	83	230	230	

In addition, the A. & P. delivered at St. Louis 190 tons lead ore and 120 tons zinc ore.—*St. Louis Republican.*

Boston Wool Market.

BOSTON, December 10.—Wool deeces continue excited over the recent large sales; sales Ohio and Pennsylvania deeces at 50@55c; Wisconsin and Michigan d'aflic, and combing and delaine 52@55c; good seemand for pulled wool and sales of superfine and extra at 49@50c, and very choice super at 51@ 52c.

Nashville Market.

NASHVILLE, December 10.—Flour, grain and cotton quiet and unchanged. Provisions steady. Lard 7¾c. Bulk shoulders 6¼c; clear rib 7½c; clear 9½c. Whisky steady at 90c.

New York Finance and Trade.

Gold Closed at 109½.

NEW YORK, December 10, 1873.

MONEY

easy at 5@7 per cent, loaned chiefly at the latter figure.

STERLING

firm at 108¾ for 60 days, and 109¾ for sight. Customs receipts $319,000.

GOLD

weaker, closing at 109¾ after selling at 109¼@109¾. Loans were at 5.7 and 7 gold. The Assistant Treasurer disbursed $233,000. Clearings, $73,000,000.

GOVERNMENTS

firm.

U. S. coupons, 1881	18	5-20's, '67	17½
5-20's, '62	11½	5-20's, '68	17¾
5-20's, '64	14½	New 5's	10¾
5-20's, '65	14¾	10-40's	9¾
5-20's, '65, new	17½	Currency 6's	11

STATE BONDS

quiet but stronger.

Missouri	92½	Virginia, old	34
Tennessee, old	78	North Carolina, old	25
Tennessee, new	77¾	North Carolina, new	15
Virginia, new	60		

STOCKS.

On Stock Exchange the day opened with wild speculation; the volume of business was immense, and prices advanced ½ to 3 per cent., chiefly in low priced stocks. In the afternoon, under heavy realizations and telegrams from Washington relative to the resumption of specie payments, the market became weak, the early improvement was nearly all lost and prices left off generally at the lowest point of the day. The principal features were Union Pacific, Columbus, Chicago and Indiana Central, Pacific Mail, St. Paul, Wabash, Northwest, Ohios, Western Union, Lake Shore and New York Central. Erie declined 2 per cent., partly in sympathy with the London market; it was reported that an Erie specialist in London was in trouble. The stock sales for seven to and 2 o'clock amounted to 298,000 shares, of which 70,000 were Western Union, 54,000 Union Pacific, 17,000 Wabash, 28,000 Pacific Mail, 7,000 Ohios, 20,000 St. Paul, 12,000 Hannibal and St. Joseph, 13,000 Cleveland, Columbus and Indiana Central, and 10,000 Northwest.

Banker's bills	8¾	St. Paul	49¾
Canton	67	Do preferred	64
W. U. Tel. Co	73	Wabash	53¾
Adams Express Co	94	Do preferred	70
Quicksilver	27¾	Fort Wayne	89
Wells, Fargo & Co	70	Terre Haute	8
American Express	58	Do preferred	30
U. S. Express	68¾	Chicago & Alton	99¾
Pacific Mail	29¾	Do preferred	105
N. J. Central	75¾	Ohio & Mississippi	30¾
Erie	43¾	Cleve., Col. & Cin	71¾
Erie preferred	69¾	Panama	99¾
Harlem	121	Bur. & Quincy	95
Harlem, preferred	120	Lake Shore	75¾
Michigan Central	73	Illinois Central	95
Pittsburgh	84¾	Union Pacific	31¾
N. W. C.	56	Central Pacific	80¾
Do preferred	72	Union	82¾
Rock Island	98¾	Hartford & Erie	2¾
N. J. Central	99	Del. Lack	100

MARKETS BY TELEGRAPH.

Chicago Market.

CHICAGO, December 10, 1873.

FLOUR—Quiet and unchanged.

GRAIN—Wheat demand fair and market firm; No. 1 at 1 17; No. 2 at 1 11¾ cash; 1 11¾@1 12 seller December; $1 13¾ January, $1 19 seller February; No. 3 $1 08¾; rejected 1 06. Corn—In demand at 44¾@45c cash or December; 52½@53c cash or December; 52¾@53c January, 53¾c February; rejected 50@50¾c. Oats—dull and lower; No 2, 28¾c cash or January. Rye—dull and nominal. No 1, 86c. Barley—steady and in moderate demand; fall No. 2 $1 47; No 3 $1 03@1 13.

PROVISIONS—Pork lower at $14 84¾. Lard dull at 8¾c January. Bulkmeats dull and lower; shoulders 5c; short rib middles 6¾c all loose.

HOGS—Steady and in moderate demand at 91c.

WHISKY—Steady and in moderate demand at 91c.

Buffalo Live Stock Market.

BUFFALO, December 10.—Cattle—Receipts, including one car reshipped, 374; total for the week, 5,510. Market active at about ¼c decline from yesterday's prices. Among Christmas cattle in yards this week are several due Chicago fed by A. W. Sandusky, Vermillion county, Illinois. This class of stock meets with no sale here and will be forwarded East in first hands. Good cattle, averaging 1,200a 1,500 lbs, meet with ready sale at fair rates.

Sheep and Lambs—Receipts, to day, including reported arrivals, 5,400; total for the week 9,800. Market active at yesterday's prices.

Hogs—Receipts, to-day, including reported arrivals, 4,100; total for the week 20,700. Market moderately active at ½c advance on yesterday's prices. Nearly all yesterday's receipts disposed of; light hogs not wanted; desirable hogs averaging 200a300 lbs bring $5a5 25.

New York Market.

NEW YORK, December 10.—Cotton in fair demand at 18¾c. Flour higher; superfine $4 50a5 75; common to good $5 25a7 10; extra Ohio $6 45a7 65. Wheat firmer at 1 45a1 55. Corn steady; No. 2 spring $1 03a1 03; No. 2 Milwaukee $1 05a1 05; extra choice do $1 07. Rye, barley and malt quiet and unchanged. Pork steady; new mess in store 17¾a18c; afloat 18a18¼c. Oats active; mixed western afloat 56a57c; white 59a61c. Hay firm at 21 65a1 10. Hops steady at 30a45c for 1873. Leather active at 27¼a30c. Coffee quiet at 22c. Sugar easy at 9¾a9¾c. Rice quiet at 7¾a8¾c. Petroleum firm; crude 5¾c; refined 14c. Turpentine steady at 41c. Pork weak at $16. Beef and cut meats unchanged; middles weak at 6¾a7c. Lard firm at 8¾a8¾c. Butter firmer at 25a27c. Cheese firm at 13¾c.

Baltimore Market.

BALTIMORE, December 10.—Flour active and in good demand; western superfine $4 50a5 75; do extra $6 25a7; do family $7 25a8 75. Wheat steady; southern choice and prime $1 60a1 70; fair to prime $1 60a1 75; choice amber $1 82a1 85; good to prime red $1 70a1 80; common to fair $1 40a1 65. Corn firmer at 51a52c; white and yellow amber $1 05. Corn strong and active; mixed 72a73c. Oats firmer; western mixed 45a47c; white 48a50c. Rye firmer. Provisions strong, want of stock restricts business. Mess pork $16 50. Bulk meats —marked nearly half cent off; new shoulders 6¼a6¾c; clear rib sides 7¾a8¼c. Bacon—shoulders 7¼c; clear rib sides 9¾c. Hams and lard unchanged. Butter quiet. Coffee unchanged. Whisky firm, scarce and higher.

New Orleans Market.

NEW ORLEANS, December 10.—Flour quiet; double extra $5 90a6 25; family $6 50a9. Corn in good demand at 75c. Oats 55c. Bran firm at $1. Hay—prime $23; choice firm at $24. Pork scarce; new mess at $16 50. Dry salt meats firm; shoulders 6¼c. Bacon scarce and firm at 7¾a8¾c. Hams firm; old 10a11c; new 13a14c. Lard dull; tierces 8¾a9c; keg 9¾a10c. Sugar firm; inferior 4¼a4¾c; common 5¾a 6c; fair to fully fair 6¼a8c; prime to choice 8¾a9¾c. Molasses in active demand; common 65a68c; fair 70a73c; prime to choice 84a90c. Whisky quiet; Louisiana 94a95c; Cincinnati $1 00. Coffee firm; fair 23a23½c; good 24a24½c; prime 24¾a25c. Corn meal quiet at $3 30.

Cincinnati Market.

CINCINNATI, December 10.—Cotton steady at 18¾c. Flour quiet at $4 65a5 50. Wheat—tonity at $1 45 at 53. Corn firmer at 52c. Rye active at 92a93c. Oats and barley steady at former rates. Provisions firm at $15 12½a15 50. Lard quiet; kettle, 8¾a8¾c; steam, 8c. Bulk shoulders, 5¾c; sides, 7¾@7¾c. Ham on firm; shoulders, 6¾c; clear, 10¾@11c; clear. Red Hogs in good demand at $4 60a5 20. Whisky firm at 90c.

New York Dry Goods Market.

NEW YORK, December 10.—Business fairly active with commission houses to-day, and jobbing trade in holiday goods showed considerable improvement. Cotton goods steady and in fair demand, with more active in jobbers hands. Fancy cassimeres steady and more firm. Balance of woolen and worsted dress goods were sold at auction to-day, and bidding was very spirited. Hosiery in fair request.

Toledo Market.

TOLEDO, December 10.—Flour—demand fair and market firm. Wheat—demand fair and market firm; amber Michigan, cash, $1 59¾; seller December, $1 53a1 54; seller February, $1 57. Corn—cash and seller year; high mixed cash and seller December, 58c; seller January, 58½c; seller Feoruary, 59¼c. Oats—firm; No. 1, 46c; No 2, 60½c.

Milwaukee Market.

MILWAUKEE, December 10.—Flour quiet and unchanged. Wheat—demand fair and market firm; No. 1 Milwaukee, $1 14a1 14½; No. 2, $1 13. Oats dull; No. 2, 37½c. Corn—active and in moderate demand at 56c. Rye steady; No. 1, 73½c. Barley—demand fair and market firm; No. 1, $1 42.

New York Live Stock Market.

NEW YORK, December 10.—Hogs—Arrivals 6,400 head; market active and 10c lower than at the close of morning's cars Ohio hogs sold at 5a5¼c, but 5¼c is the outside quotation. City dressed hogs weaker, and declined to 6a6½c. The highest was 6¾c; western dressed quoted at 6a6¾c.

Philadelphia Market.

PHILADELPHIA, December 10.—Flour—Demand light at $6 50a7 50. Wheat steady; red $1 55a1 63. Rye advanced 90c. Corn scarce and held at 53c. Oats—white 52a54c; mixed 50a52c. Petroleum in fair demand; crude 9¾a10c; refined 13¾c. Whisky held at 90c.

Memphis Market.

MEMPHIS, December 10.—Cotton dull and drooging; good ordinary 18c; strict 18¾c; low middling 18¾ 14¾c; strict 14¾a14¾c. Flour dull at $5 25a9 25. Grain quiet and unchanged. Bulk meats—Demand good at 6a6¾7¾c. Lard active at 8¾a9¾c.

Oswego Market.

OSWEGO, December 10.—Wheat dull; white Michigan $1 76. Corn firm; yellow 69c, but at close held at 70c. Barley quiet; up-lake Canada held at $1 60 at 65.

Stock of Coal at Louisville—Shipments of Coal and Coke to Southern Ports.

The arrivals of coal tows at Louisville during the recent run were: Towboats, 14; coal boats, 21; barges, 21; nut coal boats, 14; packages of coke, 3.

The shipments of coal and coke to Southern ports were as follows:

Tow Boats.	Bgs.	Bgs. Coke.	Destination.
George Lysle	10	6	New Orleans
Mary Ann	10		Vicksburg & N. O.
John A. Wood	10	16	B. Rouge & N. O.
Oakland	18	3	New Orleans.
Charles Brown	13	1	Cairo & St. Louis
James Gilmore	4	3	Cumber R & St. L.

The amount of coal and coke in flat hands, omitting stocks in the hands of coal dealers, were as follows: above the falls, 9 coal boats, 55 barges, 15 nut coal barges, and ten packages of coke; below the falls, 1 coal boat. The stock in the hands of the city dealers was 31 barges in the river and 11 barges in yards.

OCEAN STEAMERS.

Date of Departure from New York.

City of London	December 11	Liverpool.
Westphalia	December 11	Hamburg.
Olympus	December 11	Liverpool.
City of Brussels	December 13	Liverpool.
Republic	December 13	Liverpool.
Virginia	December 13	Glasgow.
Pereire	December 13	France.
Greece	December 13	Liverpool.
Denia	December 13	Bristol.
Elysia	December 13	Glasgow.
Russia	December 17	Liverpool.
Wyoming	December 17	Liverpool.
Castalia	December 17	Glasgow.
Tharungis	December 18	Hamburg.
Hecla	December 20	Liverpool.
City of New York	December 20	Liverpool.
Adriatic	December 20	Liverpool.
Spain	December 20	Liverpool.
Anglia	December 20	Glasgow.
Java	December 24	Liverpool.
Idaho	December 24	Liverpool.
Teutonia	December 24	Glasgow.
Great Western	December 24	Bristol.
Pommerania	December 25	Hamburg.
Partbia	December 27	Liverpool.
City of Paris	December 27	Liverpool.
Georgia	December 27	Liverpool.
Europe	December 27	France.
Baltic	December 27	Liverpool.
California	December 27	Glasgow.
Minnesota	December 31	Liverpool.

FROM BALTIMORE.

Canadian	December 24	Liverpool.

FROM PHILADELPHIA.

Ohio	December 11	Liverpool.
Vanderland	December 19	Antwerp.
Pennsylvania	December 25	Liverpool.

RIVER TELEGRAMS.

Greensboro.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

GREENSBORO, PA., December 10, 1873.

River stationary, with five feet water in the chann

THE MISSING WATER BONDS.

Further Investigation by the Finance Committee.

THOSE $68,000 WORTH OF BONDS

Samuel Pollock Explains the Transaction

MR. ROSS REFUSES TO TESTIFY

The Meeting at Armstrong's House.

Mr. Ross "Skips" Through a Window and Mr. Swoope Sends a Note to the Committee.

Pursuant to adjournment, the Finance Committee met at three o'clock yesterday afternoon, in the Controller's office, for the purpose of continuing their investigations.

The following members were present: Messrs. Negley, Fetterman, J. H. Jones, Friday, Follansbee, Rauhauser, Byce, Fleming, Seeley, McCune, Littell, Aiken, Smith, House, Hays and Phillips, chairman.

After calling the meeting to order, Col. Phillips said that Mr. Burgwin was present and desired to make a statement. Permission was granted.

STATEMENT BY MR. BURGWIN.

Mr. Burgwin—I merely wish to correct a statement in the report of what I said when I was examined here, and, of course, still consider myself under examination. I see it was reported that I had stated I had never signed any of the receipts for water bonds. What I should have said was that I had never signed any of the receipts for water bonds during the past year; that I never signed any of the bonds now in controversy, and which have been issued under a late law authorizing the issue of two and a half millions. Of the bonds issued in 1872, an account of which was presented at the first of the year, I did sign receipts for some of them.

A CHARGE EMPHATICALLY DENIED.

Mr. Snodgrass stated that he would also like the privilege of making a statement, as he saw it represented in one of the morning papers that he had something to do with the transactions of the Water Commission and Nation Trust Company's bank.

Colonel Phillips—We will call you and have you sworn and put upon the stand. That is the way we want to go to work in this thing. We are in earnest. R. M. Snodgrass was then sworn, and testified as follows:

Question. What position do you occupy in the Controller's office?

Answer. I believe I am clerk in the Controller's office.

Q. How long have you been in the office?

A. I have been here going on two years.

Q. I wish you would state whether, on or about the 10th of November, you know anything of some sixty-odd thousand dollars water bonds being taken to a house on Liberty street, to be delivered from there to a party in Philadelphia?

A. I do not, sir.

Q. Do you know of any parties about that time going to a house on Liberty street with water bonds?

A. I do not.

Q. Were you ever with any parties, either at that time or any other time, with water bonds?

A. No, sir, not with water bonds or any other bonds.

Q. Do you know Mr. Samuel Pollock?

A. I do, sir.

Q. Do you know at any time of his taking water bonds to Philadelphia to parties there?

A. I never did of my own knowledge, and know about it except what I have seen in the newspapers.

Q. I think it is also stated that you and Mr. Kennedy had accompanied Mr. Ross to a house on Liberty street, about the 10th of November last; have you any knowledge of that?

A. No, sir, I have not.

Q. Have you any knowledge of the $68,000 water bonds spoken of in this connection.

A. I have not. I know nothing about them.

Q. Have you any knowledge of the transactions of Mr. Ross with the Nation Trust Company from about the 5th of May last up to the 24th November last?

A. The first information I had was from the Controller on Saturday night about 7 o'clock, about three weeks ago. I think that was the first intimation or knowledge I had that Mr. Ross had any connection with anything in that way.

Q. Had you any knowledge or intimation that of the bonds Mr. Ross was getting out of this office from the Controller, he was misappropriating any of them?

A. I had not. I had no such idea.

Q. Had you any knowledge or intimation during the last six months, say from May 5th up to the present time, that Mr. Ross was misappropriating the bonds received from the City Controller's office or elsewhere?

A. I had no idea of it.

Q. Have you any knowledge of any person being connected with Mr. Ross in any transaction?

A. I have not, except what testimony I have heard before this committee.

Q. I wish you would state whether you have ever issued any water bonds of your own authority?

A. No, sir, not of my own authority.

Q. Have you ever issued them to Mr. Ross with the authority of any person other than the Controller?

A. No, sir.

Q. Have you ever issued any bonds to him except signed by the Controller himself?

A. No, sir, except the blank books that we usually get for the Commission.

Q. Those were deposited with the Water Commission?

A. Yes, sir.

THE MODE OF ISSUE OF BONDS.

Q. I wish you would state the *modus operandi*—what forms are observed by Mr. Ross in getting the bonds.

A. Mr. Ross generally came to this office with packages, or a number of bonds in sheets, which he would give to the Controller if he was at the desk. Last year they were all coupon bonds. The early part of the year there were some few, about one hundred and eighteen thousand, coupon bonds issued. Of these bonds I took a memoranda on a desk-pad, of the numbers of the bonds, together with the amount. I then handed them over to the Controller for his signature, and placed the memoranda in a drawer. When the Controller was done signing them I took them to the Mayor's office, counted the bonds in them, then seal them, and brought them back, and never delivered them to any one but Mr. Ross. Sometimes he would have a receipt signed by a majority of the Commission at the time, these bonds were delivered, but if he had not he would say he would procure me a receipt when there is another meeting and a quorum present. I held the receipts until I had returned a receipt signed by a majority of the Commission. Then I usually destroyed the memoranda.

Q. Did you take a memoranda receipt from Mr. Ross?

A. No, sir. I made the memoranda myself in the early part of the year for the first two or three times he brought me a receipt at the time he got the bonds.

Q. Did he always give you a receipt afterwards?

A. He gave me a receipt for all those that passed through my hands.

Q. How long prior to getting the receipt was the last issue of bonds made?

A. I do not remember exactly.

Q. Have you anything here to refer to to give you this information?

A. No, for the reason that I am only speaking of the bonds that passed through my own hands.

Q. Of the $514,000 worth of water bonds now in controversy did, any of those pass through your hands?

A. That I cannot say.

Q. Have you any knowledge in the office to show whether they did or not?

A. No, sir; I have not.

Q. When were the receipts given for these bonds in controversy? I wish you would get these receipts if you can. [Witness then produced the receipts.]

Q. Look at these two receipts—one for $68,000 and the other for $254,000—those are the ones you refer to are they?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. I wish you would state whether these are the two receipts that were given on or about the 24th or 25th of November?

A. They are.

Q. I wish you would state the date of these receipts.

A. That for $254,000 is dated October 25, 1873, and the other one for $68,200 is dated October 17, 1873.

Q. By whom were these receipts signed?

A. They are signed by D. W. C. Carroll, Chairman, R. Watson and H. M. Rolfe.

Q. Those are the two receipts given by the Water Commission after the discovery of this irregularity?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. I wish you would state how long a time generally elapsed between the giving out of these bonds from the Controller's office, and the getting of receipts for them?

A. I cannot fix any definite time, but I have known of at least two weeks; sometimes there would be one week and sometimes there would be more, but I cannot tell exactly as to the time.

Q. Did the Water Commission ever object to giving these receipts after the bonds had been issued?

A. Not that I ever heard of.

Q. Did the receipts date on the day the bonds were issued, or the day the signatures were attached to them?

A. Some receipts were dated on the day the bonds were delivered in blank to be signed, and others were dated the day they were signed by the Commission.

Q. In what amounts were these bonds generally issued?

A. I am not positive, but if you will allow me to refer to my register I can tell you. I think the highest bond is $30,000; it may be $50,000.

Q. A single bond?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Will you refer to your register?

[Witness here produced register.]

A. The highest bond I find on the register is $50,000, and issued to R. B. Brinton and B. F. Tyle, trustees under will of Thomas B. Lapsley, deceased.

Q. When was that bond issued?

A. We have no date for register, only the number.

Q. What is the number?

A. It is numbered 549.

Q. Was it issued in 1873 or 1872?

A. It is of the issue of 1873, bearing interest from April 1st, 1873. I wish to state that this register shows none of the issue of 1872. I also find a bond here for $30,000. These registered bonds were all issued in 1873.

Q. Have you a register there of any other large bonds?

A. Here is one number, 400, for $25,000, I issued to Thomas A. Clement and Alexander Biddle; also one for $21,000, issued to Thomas A. Clemett.

Q. What is the size of the bonds authorized to be issued by this Water Commission?

A. Under an ordinance, they were authorized to issue from $100 to $1,000, but by an act of Assembly I think they were authorized to issue any amount in registered bonds.

Q. Were these bonds all filled out when brought in here?

A. The names of the parties were in all of the bonds that passed through my hands, also together with the number.

Q. Was the bond book ever brought to you, or were they loose?

A. They were loose.

Q. You do not know what entries are made on the stubs of the bond book?

A. Yes sir I do, they correspond with this book; they have been checked with this book except those that have been transferred.

Q. Does that show all the bonds that have been issued in 1873?

A. So far as I have gone through with them some of the stubs I have not gone through yet.

Q. That applies to 1872 or 1873?

A. It applies to 1873.

Q. What balance had you to the credit of the Water Commission on the 1st December.

A. Will you allow me to refer to the balance sheet.

Q. Yes sir. [Balance sheet produced.]

A. What year do you refer to.

Q. This year—the beginning of this month.

A. We have a balance of bonds sold of $1,445,500 up to the 22d of November.

Q. Does that include these bonds hypothecated?

A. It does not.

Q. What balance have you now to their credit?

A. We have a balance of $751,045 25.

Q. I see a receipt here on the 3d December, 1873, for $16,100. State what that was for?

A. It is a receipt for bonds issued in reply to a letter from Townsend, Wheelen & Co, to the Treasurer of the city for bonds that had not been delivered which was due them.

Q. In reference to the receipts for the $254,000, and the $68,200 bonds, which receipts are dated Oc ober 17th and 25th, were those bonds delivered on those dates?

A. Those bonds I know nothing about.

Q. Why were those receipts dated those dates?

A. That is more than I can tell you; the Commission can answer that.

Q. Those are the receipts that were signed by the Commission after the discovery of this irregularity?

A. Yes, sir; after I knew of it.

Q. Those receipts were signed, I believe, on the 24th of November?

A. They were signed on the Saturday subsequent to the first I knew of this difficulty.

Q. And they were dated back to those dates?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Can you by any means tell us when these bonds were really issued?

A. I cannot, sir.

Q. What would be your inference as to dates?

A. I might have a great deal of inference.

Q. In whose writing are those receipts?

A. I think the same as the other receipts; they are by a stamp writing of Mr. Ross, although I did not see him write them.

Q. [By Mr. Phillips.] Did you ever sign any of those bonds as Assistant Controller?

A. No sir, I did not.

Q. It has been currently reported that such was the fact—that you had signed bonds as Assistant Controller, and that the Mayor then refused to sign them.

A. No question of that kind ever arose; they would not be valid; they were to be signed by the Mayor and countersigned by the Controller; no bond ever left here that was not signed in that shape as far as I know of.

Q. [By Mr. Jones.] Were there any warrants ever signed by you as Assistant Controller?

A. There have been warrants countersigned by me that were signed by the Mayor; they were signed by me during the absence of the Controller, and by the authority of the Controller and as Assistant Controller.

THAT $68,000 TRANSACTION.

Samuel Pollock was then sworn and testified as follows.

Q. Where do you live?

A. In Allegheny City.

Q. I wish you would state whether about the 10th of November last you were called upon by a couple of gentlemen with a package to take to the city of Philadelphia?

A. I will tell you all I know about that. On the evening of November 10th, I was in the store, at seven o'clock, when a young man, Mr. Dickson, from the bank came down there and said to me, "We want you to take a package to Philadelphia for us." I said, "When do you want me to go?"

Q. From what bank?

A. From the Nation Trust Company Bank.

Q. Do you know the full name of the young man?

A. Jacob Dickson.

Q. Whereabouts were you at the time?

A. In the store at 333 Liberty street. He said they wanted me to take a package to Philadelphia, and I asked him when they wanted me to go. I looked at my watch and saw it was 7 o'clock, he said "you have twenty minutes to get to the train." I asked him if Mr. Hunter could not go, but he said there was only twenty minutes in which to make the train and as he had not got back from the store I said I would go. I got my overcoat and he told me to go up to the bank and get a package. I went up to the bank and the door was closed. I opened it and went in; Mr. Robert J. Grier, the cashier, Mr. Imo Yates, clerk of the Water Commission, Mr. Thos. Blair, one of the clerks, and the book-keeper, Mr. Seagher, were there. As I went in the bank, Mr. Ross was sitting at a small table in the middle of the room, and he had a sealed package tied with a string around it; he handed me the package, and told me to deliver it to B. K. Jamieson, on the corner of Third and Chestnut streets, in Philadelphia. I told him I knew where the house was. He told me to say to Mr. Thompson that he would send the rest of the bonds by mail.

Q. Who said this?

A. Mr. Ross.

Q. Mr. Ross handed you the bonds?

A. He handed me the bonds.

Q. Mr. Ross made that statement to you?

A. Yes, sir. Mr. Grier tried to get into the bank to get me some money to pay my expenses. He said he could not get in because Jake had got the key, but he said he would get me some money. I took the package and went out with Mr. Grier. He stopped at Blanchard's grocery store and went in there and came out and handed me thirty dollars. I presume he borrowed it. Then he went with me to the ticket office where I bought the ticket to Philadelphia and a sleeping car birth. I also bought a life insurance ticket, which I gave to him before I got on the cars. Mr. Grier remarked, "you have got a good deal of stuff with you," or something like that; we were alone at the time. I will not swear to it, but I think he said there was $68,000 in the package. I then got on the cars and went to Philadelphia. I forgot to state that before going, if the other train would not answer he spoke about my going on the 7:20 train, and I asked him if a later train would not do; he said no, that the package had to be delivered there at 10 o'clock in the morning.

Q. Who said that?

A. Mr. Jacob Dickson. After I got to Philadelphia, I started right down Chestnut street to deliver the package. I began to think it was not a straight way of doing business, and I concluded I would go and see an acquaintance of mine, Mr. Scattergood. I went down and saw him and told him I had this package and that I was asked to deliver it and not to get any receipt for it. Then I asked him to go down with me and see me deliver it. So Mr. Scattergood came with me and saw the package delivered.

Q. Did you see the package opened?

A. I saw the package opened by the broker in Philadelphia.

Q. What was in it?

A. That I cannot tell you. He had a little desk in a little bit of a room, and the desk faced this way, that is, as he sat there he would look this way; we sat down then, and he tore the package open; he asked me how Mr. Ross was, and I told him Mr. Ross was very well. I also delivered the message of Mr. Ross that he would send the balance next day. He tore the package open and raised something up, that looked to me like a bond, but I could not say whether it was a bond or what it was.

Q. Did you get a receipt for the package?

A. I did not, sir. I was only told to leave it there, and I took this precaution to satisfy myself and everybody else, that the package was delivered.

Q. You had your friend with you?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Are you connected with the Nation Trust Company Bank in any way?

A. No, sir, only as a depositor.

Q. How did they come to get you to go to Philadelphia?

A. I am very intimately acquainted with Mr. Grier and all the others in the bank.

Q. What you saw you think looked like a bond?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Mr. Grier said there were $68,000 in the package, did he?

A. I understood him to state that, but I will not swear to that being the amount.

Q. Was any person with Mr. Dickson when he came down to the store after you?

A. No sir, Mr. Dickson came by himself.

Q. Have you given the names of all the parties connected with this transaction?

A. I have.

Q. Was Mr. Snodgrass there?

A. No, sir.

Q. Was Mr. Kennedy there?

A. I do not know Mr. Kennedy. I never saw him in my life; he was not there. There was no person in the store except Mr. Dickson and myself.

Q. Did you ever have a conversation with him in regard to this transaction afterwards?

A. With whom?

Q. With Ross or Grier?

A. I have never seen Grier since.

Q. Ha ve you ever had a conversation before or since with Mr. Ross or Mr. Kennedy or Mr. Snodgrass in regard to this matter?

A. I have never had any with Mr. Snodgrass or Mr. Kennedy. Mr. Ross was there to-day and wanted me to come down and see Mr. Swoope, but I did not do it.

Q. In relation to this matter?

A. I presume it was that.

Q. Did you ever carry any other bonds to Philadelphia?

A. No, sir; I did not.

Q. Do you know any further transaction than this?

A. No, sir.

Q. You are not connected with the Nation Trust Company bank?

A. I am not, sir.

Q. Did you see Mr. Ross to-day.

A. Yes, sir.

Q. He made what request?

A. He wanted me to go and see Mr. Swoope.

Q. Did he say what for?

A. He did not.

Q. He came to your place of business?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. About what time to-day?

A. I think it was about one and a half o'clock; between that and two o'clock.

Q. Was that before or after you were notified to be here as a witness?

A. Afterwards.

Q. In this transaction of taking this package to Philadelphia, were you paid anything besides your expenses?

A. Not one farthing; I did not receive a dollar from anybody, only to pay my expenses.

Q. Has any person spoken to you about those transactions since, asking you to keep quiet.

A. Yes, sir; Mr. Ross one evening came in and asked if anybody had been to see me. I told him no. He made the remark, "You keep your head closed," or something like that; that is all.

Q. Did he refer to any transaction?

A. I do not know what he referred to; that is the language he used.

Q. What did you understand by that?

A. I did not understand anything in particular, more than he wanted me to keep my head closed.

Q. Did you understand it referred to this package transaction?

A. I suppose it had something to do about that.

Q. Did anybody else speak to you about keeping your head closed about it?

A. No, sir.

Q. By Mr. Jones—This Mr. Dickson who came to your store, is he any relation to Mr. Dickson who is president of the bank?

A. He is Mr. Dickson's son.

Q. About what is his age?

A. About twenty years.

Q. You spoke about having recieved $30 to pay your expenses; did you ever receive any further compensation?

A. Never one farthing.

Q. Ever offered anything?

A. Never offered anything.

Q. Either by promise or otherwise?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did Mr. Ross know you were subpœnaed as a witness to-day when he went to see you?

A. I guess he did.

Q. In going to Philadelphia, did you do it for the bank, or as a matter of personal friendship, or why?

A. The fact of the matter is, I thought I was doing a favor for the bank.

Q. You did it then as a mere matter of friendship for the bank?

A. I did, and Mr. Grier.

Q. I would like to have you give again the names of all the persons in the bank when you went there to get the package.

A. Mr. Grier, the cashier, Mr. Ross, Mr. Thos. Blair, and the book-keeper, Mr. Seagher.

Q. Mr. Blair was the messenger?

A. Yes, sir; they were all in the bank who belonged to the bank except Mr. Dickson.

Q. In speaking of Thomas Blair being present, do you mean the young man? You do not mean Thomas S. Blair?

A. No, sir.

Q. Is Mr. Blair a nephew of the President, Mr. Dickson?

A. I believe he is sir; I don't know; I have heard so.

THE CIVIL ENGINEER OF THE COMMISSION.

Mr. W. H. Kennedy was next sworn and testified as follows:

Q. What is your business?

A. I am a Civil Engineer.

Q. Where are you engaged?

A. In the Water Commission.

Q. State whether or not about the 10th of November last you met Mr. Ross and Mr. Pollock at a house on Liberty street.

A. No sir.

Q. State whether you know anything about some $68,000 in bonds being delivered there for the Nation Trust Company Bank.

A. No sir, I know nothing about it; the first I knew of it Mr. Laufman asked me about it when he returned from Philadelphia.

Q. Were you ever in the Nation Trust Company Bank with Mr. Ross?

A. Not that I know of.

Q. Do you know anything of the transactions of Mr. Ross in connection with the Nation Trust Company?

A. I do.

Q. You will state what you know about it.

A. I am not in relation to Water Bonds. It is Thirty-third street bonds. I do not know the date; even approximately the date of the transaction. It was sometime during the summer or fall that Mr. Friday came into the office.

Q. What office?

A. The office of the Water Commission. Mr. Ross, the Secretary, asked me about noon if I was going up to the Eighth ward. He had some Thirty-third street bonds, and was doing them up. He handed me the package, and said it contained $50,000, and asked me to hand it to Mr. Friday. That is all I know.

Q. About what time was this?

A. I cannot fix the date at all; I made no note of it.

Q. Where did you delivered these bonds to Mr. Friday?

A. In his store.

Q. On what street?

A. On old Canal street.

Q. Mr. Friday is of the firm of Schmidt & Friday.

A. Yes sir.

Q. Cannot you arrive at any date?

A. I have nothing to fix the date by at all.

Q. How long was it before this development?

A. It was a long time before.

Q. About how long—three, four or five months?

A. I cannot tell for I made no note of it. The thing had passed from my mind until this came up.

Q. Was Mr. Friday in the office at any time that morning?

A. Yes, sir. He was there in conversation with Mr. Ross.

Q. At what time in the day did you deliver this package to Mr. Friday?

A. About noon—before dinner.

Q. State whether you were requested to carry this package to Mr. Friday, specially?

A. I was going up to the railroad depot on other business, and was requested to take the package to Mr. Friday.

Q. Mr. Ross said the package contained $50,000?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Street bonds?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. What street?

A. Thirty-third street.

Q. Is that the only time you had any connection with those bonds?

A. That is the only time that I had a bond in my hand, that I am aware of.

Q. That is the only transaction you had with Mr. Ross and the Nation Trust Company?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Had you any knowledge of this bond transaction—that Mr. Ross was dealing in bonds and keeping his account there?

A. No, sir.

Q. You state positively that you know nothing of the alleged transaction on the 10th of November, when Mr. Pollock went to Philadelphia.

A. I can state positively that I was not there and knew nothing about it until Mr. Laufman told me about it.

Q. By Mr. Jones—Did you tell Mr. Friday what the nature of the bonds were when you gave them to him?

A. As near as I can remember I told him I had a package of bonds that Mr. Ross had told me to give to him.

Q. What did Mr. Friday say?

A. Nothing more than "all right," or something like that.

Q. Were you ever at Hunker's store, on Liberty street, in company with Mr. Snodgrass and Mr. Ross?

A. I was on one occasion; that was on Saturday, the 22d day of November.

Q. What was the occasion of your being there then?

A. Mr. Ross sent me a note to the office to send his overcoat over by one of the boys; this was about 6 o'clock in the evening, and there were none of the boys there, so I took it up myself and handed it to him.

Q. You met him there?

A. Yes sir, I believe he was there when I went in.

Q. Was any person with him?

A. Some of the men in the store were there.

Q. Was Mr. Snodgrass there?

A. He was there, or came in, I do not know which?

Q. Was anything said about bonds that night?

A. No, sir.

Q. How long did you remain there?

A. About a minute or two; I just handed him the coat.

Q. You left Mr. Ross there?

A. I think he came out with me and went out on the train.

Q. Where abouts does he live?

A. At Shadyside; I think Mr. Snodgrass came in and bought something at the store.

Q. Were you on your way home with Mr. Snodgrass?

A. No, sir; I was not with Mr. Snodgrass at all; I either met him there or came in afterwards. I do not remember which.

Q. Did you say you had no knowledge that Mr. Ross kept a Bank account there?

A. No, sir; none whatever.

Q. Who is the Secretary of the Thirty-third street Commission?

A. I do not really know.

Q. Is Mr. Ross Secretary of that Commission?

A. I do not know.

THAT PROTESTED CHECK SETTLEMENT.

John McConnell was duly sworn and testified as follows:

Q. What is your business?

A. Attorney-at-law.

Q. I wish you would state whether along in September you had any transaction with the Nation Trust Company in regard to a note, and if so, what it was?

A. I had no transaction with the Nation Trust Company in regard to a note; but among some collections placed in my hands by the City Deposit Bank and Trust Company there was a memorandum check of the Nation Trust Company for $5,000. That check was under protest. My instructions were to proceed and collect. I was called to Philadelphia in the meantime, and immediately upon my return I went down to the bank and found the check had not been paid. I then went back to my office and commenced to prepare papers to put the bank into bankruptcy. On the 2d day of October, about 10 or 11 o'clock, Mr. John Ross came into my office and said he had been requested to call there and see about a claim against the Nation Trust Company, and to ask the nature of it, which I explained to him. He then asked if I could not hold the matter off. I told him my instructions were imperative. He then asked me whether if the bank paid $2,500 on it, if I would give ten days for the balance. I thought it was the better plan, and I told him I would do it. He said he would go to the bank and report the matter, and then would let me know. He came back and said that was satisfactory to the bank, and paid $2,500, which was endorsed on the check. On the 14th of October, Mr. Grier sent the balance of the money.

Q. What is the date of the payment of that $2,500?

A. The 8d of October.

Q. Did Mr. Ross pay you the money?

A. He paid me the $2,500.

Q. Who paid the balance?

A. Some man from the bank brought it; I noticed merely that it was a draft on Philadelphia, and signed Robert J. Grier.

Q. Do you know what this had to do with John Ross?

A. This check was deposited by Michael O'Hara, a regular depositor there. It was one of the checks thrown out of the Clearing House the day there were some seventy thousand dollars thrown out. I think it was a memoranda check. It was regularly deposited and sent through the Clearing house.

Q. Do you know what connection Mr. Ross had with it?

A. None whatever.

Q. Did he make you any statement about it?

A. None whatever except that he had been requested to call by the bank.

A NOTE INQUIRED AFTER.

Q. Do you know anything about a note for $5,000 which is stated to have been protested and given in your name?

A. No sir, I do not know anything about any such transaction.

Q. Have you had any transactions with the bank there?

A. No sir; the fact is I never had a note of $3,000 out in my life.

Q. They have none of your paper there?

A. No sir.

Q. Why I ask the question is because mention was made of such a note in an affidavit by Mr. Ross. Then I understand you are not the John McConnell referred to in that affidavit.

A. Well, sir, I suppose I am, for I was paid the $2,500.

Q. You are not the John McConnell that is connected with the Pittsburgh *Telegraph*?

A. No, sir; my brother is connected with the *Telegraph*, and his name is Thomas McConnell, Jr.

Q. Do you know whether Thomas McConnell, Jr., had a note there?

A. No, sir; I do not know anything about his business.

TESTIMONY OF MR. FRIDAY.

W. J. Friday was duly sworn, and testified as follows:

Q. What business are you engaged in?

A. Wholesale liquor business.

Q. You are a member of Councils?

A. Yes, sir, and also a member of this committee.

Q. Are you acquainted with John Ross?

A. I am, sir.

Q. What transactions have you had with Mr. Ross in connection with water or street bonds, if any, since last May?

A. I would state that to the best of my recollection, about the beginning of October or the last of September of this year, while sitting in my office, Mr. Grier came in one morning about 10 or 10½ o'clock and asked me whether I would go on an errand for him. I replied that I was very busy at that time, but that in the course of half an hour or one hour I would attend to it. He requested me to go down and see Mr. Ross and ask him for those bonds. About fifteen minutes after that I went down to Mr. Ross' office and spoke with him probably three or four minutes, and then stated my errand, that Mr. Grier had sent me for those bonds. He said that he would send them up to Mr. Grier, I said all right, and started back. I should judge about noon or 12 and 1 o'clock Mr. Kennedy came into my office and handed me a package. It was rolled up, and he stated it was from Mr. Ross. After I had finished my business I went to see Mr. Grier, and said to him "here is your package received through Mr. Kennedy from Mr. Ross," he said "all right."

Q. Do you know what kind of bonds they were?

A. I do not.

Q. Did you see them?

A. I saw the day after the delivery of the package, a 33d street bond.

Q. What day in the week was that?

A. That I cannot say; I think it was in the beginning of October about the time we had a run at the bank.

Q. Do you know of any other transactions of Mr. Ross in regard to Water Bonds or Street Bonds or deposits of money in the National Trust Company.

ANOTHER $50,000.

A. No, sir, except on one occasion Mr. Grier came to my place, and asked me what time it was going home. I told him about 5½ o'clock. He said if I could go out at four o'clock, he would take me out in his buggy. I said all right; he called for me, and I went with him. In going down the lane towards my house, I asked him where he was going. He said he was going to see Mr. Ross, and to see whether Mr. Ross could not raise more money for him. I ask him if it was necessary to have more money. He said if he had $50,000 more, he could be able to pay off the entire depositors, and the regular trade would not annoy us. He went over to my place and asked me if I would go over with him to see Mr. Ross. I told him I had no business with Mr. Ross and he had better go by himself. He said he wanted me to see him and have a talk with him. I went with him and when we found Mr. Ross he said to him, "John I wish you would try to raise while in Philadelphia $50,000 in money and I will give you the bank's paper with city of Pittsburgh 7 per cent. bonds as collateral." Mr. Ross said he would try and make such an arrangement. As we were going out Mr. Grier said, "Mr. Friday, suppose you give him a letter of introduction to Mr. Walden and see if he can assist him in raising this amount of money." I gave him a letter of introduction and read it to Mr. Grier; he said it was not what he wanted; he wanted something fuller; he told me to introduce him and state his errand. I then wrote another letter, and can give almost the exact words of it. The letter introduced him to Mr. Walter, and stated that Mr. Ross wanted to see whether he could raise any money for the Nation Trust Company by giving the Nation Trust Company's paper and the city of Pittsburgh seven per cent. bonds as collateral; that is the extent of my connection with it.

Q. At what time did you make this visit to Mr. Ross' house?

A. I think it was about the time the second loans of $50,000 was ordered.

Q. Did Mr. Ross go to Philadelphia that night?

A. I understood he did.

Q. Do you know whether he had the bonds with him there?

A. That I could not state.

Q. Did you ever see any of these bonds?

A. I never did.

Q. I wish you would state whether from the first of May up to the present time, except the two transactions stated by you, you had any connection or understanding with Mr. Ross or Mr. Grier about negotiating these water bonds in the city of Philadelphia or street bonds or keeping a deposit in the Nation Trust Company in the name of John Ross of the city's money.

A. No sir, neither of Mr. Ross or any person else.

Q. By Col. Phillips—Do you know anything of Ross depositing certain checks drawn by Townsend, Wheeler & Co., of Philadelphia, to the order of the Chairman of the Water Commission?

A. I do not, except that I have learned so since the bank suspended. I never knew Mr. Ross had an account there until the closing of the bank.

Q. Are you one of the directors of the bank?

A. I am, and have been for the last four years.

Q. Did you have director's meetings daily?

A. No, sir. It was the custom to have meetings every Tuesday and Friday, some time ago, but for the last two years we have had scarcely any regular meetings.

Q. Did you attend daily at the bank?

A. No, sir, although I was passing in and out nearly every day.

Q. Do you know anything particularly about the affairs of the bank lately?

A. In what respect?

Q. About the books and papers and assets of the bank?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did you take occasion to look over the assets of the bank or the books lately?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. About the time of its closing?

A. There was an audit appointed about five days before the closing; I was not on that audit but was on the audit of last July.

Q. Do you know of the bank owning any Pittsburgh bonds?

A. No, sir, never to the best of my knowledge.

Q. Did you ever request Mr. Ross to take any of the water bonds there?

A. Never. Nor any person else.

Q. Did you ever request Mr. Ross to make deposits in that bank?

A. Never.

Q. Do you know of Mr. Ross depositing $50,000 worth of bonds there on the 10th of November, or any other time in November?

A. I do not.

THAT MEETING AT ARMSTONG'S.

Q. I wish you would state whether on last Sunday three weeks you were at the house of Mr. Armstrong.

A. I was at Mr. Armstrong's house on the Sunday following the closing of the bank; the bank closed on Tuesday.

Q. That was last Sunday two weeks?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Who were present there?

A. I would just state that in the morning about ten o'clock, Mr. Armstrong's son came to my house and said that his father wanted me to come over to his residence at 2 o'clock that afternoon. About 1:30 o'clock I took my horse and went over there. When I arrived there was no one there except Mr. Armstrong and another gentleman, whom I cannot name. The next person that came was Alderman James S. Taylor, I think. Mr. Armstrong then took us down and showed us his greenhouse and we went into a side building at the stable. The next person that came was Jas. McC. Creighton. We conversed for, probably, five minutes when Mr. Creighton said Mr. Swoope would be there shortly and would like to see us on important business. By and by Mr. Smith came and then word was sent that Mr. Swoope was at the house and wanted to see us. When we got to the house I met Mr. Dickson, Mr. Jas. Taylor the tobacconist, and also Mr. F. Ardary, who did not come in. We were invited into the dining room and Mr. Swoope said: "Gentlemen, I have come to consult you concerning the account of Mr. Ross." He then took out a piece of paper and presented to us a statement of the bonds that it was claimed by Mr. Ross was loaned to the Nation Trust Company, and the amount of his deposit, and wanted us to acknowledge the debt. Mr. Dickson replied that we would acknowledge nothing; that we were now in the hands of our attorneys.

Q. Was there anything said about these $50,000 of bonds?

A. There was nothing said to me. Mr. Swoope said: "Gentlemen in regard to the first bonds, Mr. Friday knows all about them." That is the way he addressed me.

Q. That is the package you carried?

A. Yes sir, I suppose he referred to that; at least I judge so.

Q. I wish you would state whether he made that statement there that you carried the $50,000 to the Nation Trust Company for Mr. Grier, and had received those bonds from Mr. Ross.

A. No, sir; he said I knew all about those bonds; that was about all that was said.

Q. You made no reply?

A. I made no reply.

Q. Was Mr. Dickson present?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. You state that you did not state there that you carried the $50,000 in bonds from Mr. Ross and delivered them to Mr. Grier?

A. I say positively here, that I did not make such a statement.

Q. By Mr. Negley—Was Mr. Ross present that day?

A. No, sir; at least he was not while I was there.

Q. Did you hear of his being there at all that day?

A. No, sir.

Q. By Mr. Burgwin—Did Mr. Swoope produce the affidavit on this occasion that Mr. Ross had sworn to?

A. No, sir. I think he said Mr. Ross had made an affidavit, or was going to.

Q. Did he say what Ross had, or intended to swear to?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did he say anything as regards Mr. Ross stating that these deposits were made there with the knowledge or consent of the Water Commission?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did he say anything at that interview about the Water Commission?

A. No, sir. Not that I know of.

Q. You cannot recollect whether the affidavit had been prepared or not?

A. I am not positive whether he said Mr. Ross had made one or was going to.

Q. Did he say to what effect he was going to make an affidavit?

A. He merely said he was going to make an affidavit to the accounts.

Q. Did you or did you not admit in the presence of Mr. Swoope that you carried $50,000 to the bank?

A. I say I did not, positively.

Q. Did you know what use was to be made of this package of bonds to be taken to Grier?

A. I understood there was to be some money loaned on them in Philadelphia; that Mr. Thomas Blair was to go there and negotiate the bank's paper among them as collateral.

Q. From whom did you understand that?

A. From Mr. Grier.

Q. Was it at the same time that you delivered the bonds, that you got that information?

A. I think that it was the following day, or the day after.

Q. Did he state what arrangement he had with Ross?

A. No, sir, he said they were his bonds.

Q. Did you not think it strange that he could get bonds at will that way?

A. He was a man of considerable influence, and I did not think it strange at all.

Q. By Col. Phillips—Did I understand you to say that Mr. Swoope met those gentlemen and that his object in going there was to try and have the bank officers acknowledge the amount that Ross claimed as credit to the city?

A. Yes, sir

Q. Was that his only object?

A. I cannot say whether that was his only object or not.

Q. Was there anything developed in your presence while there, to lead you to think there was any other object?

A. No, sir.

Q. Will you state how many meetings of the Finance Committee you have attended during the last year?

A. I have been a member of the committee for the last two years. I do not think I have attended meetings over a dozen times; I do not remember attending a meeting of the committee for the last six months.

EX-SECRETARY ROSS REFUSES TO TESTIFY.

John Ross, sworn:

Question by Mr. Fetterman—Where do you reside Mr. Ross?

Mr. Ross—Gentlemen, I am arrested on a criminal charge, and under the advice of counsel I decline to answer any questions.

Mr. Fetterman—We do not expect you to say anything that may criminate yourself. But we have thought you might throw some light upon this subject without criminating yourself.

[Mr. Negley—Are you acquainted with Mr. Friday?

Mr. Ross—I decline to answer any questions.

Mr. Negley—Do you know Mr. Swoope?

Mr. Ross—I'll answer nothing.

Mr. Phillips—Mr. Ross is your refusal to answer on account of danger of criminating yourself?

Mr. Negley—Why, Mr. Chairman, I am astonished at you!

Mr. P.—(Excitedly)—What are you astonished at? I want the whole story, and am not here to screen him or any one else.

Mr. Negley—Well, Mr. Chairman, we have now the power to compel the witness to answer questions that will not criminate himself, and if he don't we'll send him to jail. Send for the Mayor.

A discussion here took place regarding the attorneys of the city, and it was explained by Mr. Phillips and others, that Mr. Swoope was simply and specifically engaged in the matter of securing the claim of the city against the Nation Trust Company.

Mr. Littell said it was very strange that Mr. Swoope should have had anything to do with the arrest of parties whom he has been employed to defend.

Messrs. Fetterman and Negley spent some time in examining the city case.

Mr. Negley read section 26 from the act of April 6th, 1867. He stated that it was the duty of the Mayor, under this act, to commit the defendant. In the absence of the City Attorney, Mr. Bigelow, Mr. Negley referred the Mayor to the District Attorney, Colonel Bayne.

Col. Bayne addressed the Mayor, stating that he believed His Honor fully jusified, under the law read, in holding witness for contempt. If the committee were to be thus treated, the investigation would be hindered, and the public good and safety imperilled.

Mr. Ross here consulted with the chairman.

A WITNESS SKIPS.

Mr. Phillips—The witness asks that he may have leave to go and consult his attorney; that he is willing to tell the whole story if his attorney consents. Now my wish is to get at the bottom of this and get the whole truth without coercion.

Mr. Negley—The Mayor can do as he pleases about allowing the witness from his custody.

The attorney of the witness, Mr. Swope, was sent for, and word came that Mr. Swoope could not attend.

It was suggested that two officers accompany him.

Mr. Cupples, officer, asked for a piece of paper to hold the prisoner and bring him back.

Mr. Negley—He is in the hands of the Mayor—the law makes him a prisoner.

The Mayor—It is for the committee to say whether he shall be allowed to leave the room.

During this discussion Mr. Ross moved into the ante-room of the Controller's office, and as appeared afterwards, made his exit through the window, after which he proceeded to consult his attorney, Mr. Swoope.

This information had not long been circulated in the room when the following note from Mr. Swoope was handed in and read:

COLONEL PHILLIPS: Mr. Ross is under $20,000 bail—is not therefore lik